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Near East & South Asia

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PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

EEC Grants West Bank, Gaza 3 Million ECU's

JN0111133088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Nov 88 p 5

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Commission of the European Communities [as published] will finance nine projects in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, under its 1988 program of development assistance to the Palestinian people, the EC office in Amman announced.

The Community will support, with 3 million European Currency Units (ECU's) in grants, actions which promote income generated employment in the agricultural, industrial and service sectors and which help improve primary health care in the most deprived areas. Special importance has been placed on strengthening local Palestinian credit and health institutions.

Community development assistance in 1988 will be distributed as follows:

—support for the Arab Development Society dairy plant in Jericho—450,000 ECU;

—credit for small-scale operations in the agricultural, industrial and service sectors through the Arab Development and Credit Company, the Economic Development Group, the United Agricultural Company and the European NGO, Cooperation for Development—1,800,000 ECU;

—support for primary health care activities through the Red Crescent Society in Hebron, the Medical Relief Society and UNRWA's West Bank and Gaza fields of operation—750,000 ECU.

In addition to the above, the Commission has already decided since the beginning of 1988 to co-finance various NGO projects for about 1 million ECU, and will provide over the year humanitarian and relief assistance worth 38.3 million ECU to Palestinian refugess in the occupied territories through UNRWA's regular and emergency programs.

Jordanian Measures Create Hardships for Students

44040050a Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI in Arabic 10 Sep 88 p 12

[Article: "After the Rift in the Relationship: Inhuman Procedures Underline Daily Events"]

[Text] Actual daily events stress that the Jordanian measures to break off the relationship with the West Bank have basically involved elements of pressure and restrictions against the inhabitants of the occupied territories.

How can the complicated measures that are carried out against our citizens of various groups, specifically our student children going to enroll in various universities, be explained?

Here we see that the Ministry of Higher Education in Amman has terminated the fellowships basically allotted to exceptional students from the West Bank.

A fellowship has come to an exceptional student from outside the country; why is the Ministry of Higher Education standing in the way of this male or female student? What is the significance, what are the justifications and what is the goal in putting students who are intending to follow up on their university studies in a vortex of procedures which they must complete in the course of 2 weeks, the period specified for the residence of any citizen visiting Jordan from the West Bank?

This birth certificate, as a simple example of that:

Every student must renew his birth certificate with a stamp from more than one department and the signature of more than one official so that it will be "valid" for use as part of the papers required for enrollment in the university; a stamp and signature from the Civil Status Department assigned to a given town on the bank; then the stamp and signature of the Civil Status Department in Amman; then the stamp and signature of the Department of Conscription and General Mobilization. One should bear in mind that Jordan's minister of the interior recently declared that the system of conscription does not apply to the people of the West Bank. Then the birth certificate goes back to the Civil Status Department for approval again, then its bearer goes to get the stamp and signature of the Ministry of Higher Education, then the stamp and signature of the Department of Palestine Affairs in the Jordanian Foreign Ministry.

Thus the student's feet become swollen in the process of running, chasing, and waiting. The period specified for his residence in Jordan could elapse while he is rushing to complete the procedures for approval of a document or two, and at that point he must begin another errand of suffering to obtain agreement to renew his period of residence!

This is not to speak of the elimination of the word "Jordanian" in the space on nationality, even if the birth certificate of the person from the bank was issued 20 years ago!

The period specified for the universities' receipt of admission applications could end, and at that point the hapless student is compelled to "bury" a year of his life because of these sterile procedures.

The vortex of obtaining a temporary passport for 2 years is itself an independent one existing unto itself, if it is not even more accursed and bitter.

Here Jordan today is venturing on another new measure which has not previously been announced, requiring that the bridge crossing point on the Jordanian side not receive any citizen from the occupied territories who reaches it after 1300 hours in the afternoon.

There is no explanation for these and other Jordanian measures, and those similar to them that might be created anew in the future except an insistence on complicating the means of livelihood facing the people of the occupied territories, which is contrary to the "declared" intentions vis-a-vis the occupied territories. Who is satisfied with this, the League of Arab States? Who is satisfied with this, all friendly countries? Are our compatriots so lacking in burdens and suffering that the Jordanian measures should come to bring them something new which the minds and thoughts of the people in power in Amman have devised?

We here could dispense with all these things if intentions toward our perseverent people were truly sincere and the agencies of the Jordanian Government ceased in deed, not word, creating labyrinths and obstacles which have no beginning or end!

Journal Describes Syrian Plot Against PLO in Lebanon

44040050a Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI in Arabic 10 Sep 88 pp 10, 11

[Article: "The Syrian Scheme and the Palestinian Presence in Lebanon"]

[Text] Now that the war of the Palestinian camps in Beirut has calmed down, since the Syrian forces, under the cover of the secessionist clique, took over the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps at the end of June and the beginning of July in the wake of the departure of the PLO forces from the two camps, the media war between the Syrian regime, what is called the "Salvation Front," and some Lebanese parties on the one hand and the PLO on the other has begun. In the view of observers, this media war has put a limit on the undeclared war which followed the summit meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Hafiz al-Asad last 25 April and through which the goals the Syrian regime had been wanting and planning for started to become clear in an obvious manner through the granting of permission for the burial of the martyred Abu Jihad's body in Damascus and the reception of Yasir 'Arafat and all the leaders of the Palestinian forces in Damascus to take part in the observances of the burial of the body and to close the book on the 5-year rift. The various Syrian print, radio, and visual media began to declare their false charge against the PLO and its leadership, represented by the Executive Committee and its chairman Yasir 'Arafat, that it was pursuing a deviationist line. They have taken as a pretext and evidence for what they call and claim to be a deviationist line aimed at the conclusion of a peace agreement with Israel similar to the Camp David agreements the document by Yasir 'Arafat's advisor for press affairs, Bassam Abu Sharif, which the WASHINGTON TIMES newspaper published based on the Syrian media's allegation. The client forces subordinate to Syria assembled in what is called the Salvation Front have started to repeat what the Syrian media are stating and the orders and charges the Syrian intelligence agencies are issuing to them, which they are pinning on the PLO. They have enlisted to take part in this vile attack some Lebanese parties loyal to Syria and known for their connections to and interest with the Syrian regime in everything.

However, the PLO has not sought to enter into peripheral media struggles, knowing full well that everything that is being arranged against it comes from the political decision-makers in Damascus alone; consequently it has declared its position frankly on this attack, which follows the military attack that Ghazi Kan'an led under cover of the secessionist Abu Musa. It has declared that Syria is carrying out an American-Syrian scheme calling for the liquidation of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon in toto which was agreed upon through a series of discussions between officials of the Syrian regime and some American administration emissaries to the region.

The Scheme Is Being Carried Out

Many observers consider that the scheme which Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), member of the Central Committee of the Fatah movement, has unmasked arose in the course of a series of long discussions which took place between the representatives of the American administration and the Syrian regime. These began when Shultz, the American secretary of state, failed to reach agreement with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on an international conference last 5 April since al-Asad held fast to obtaining a prior American commitment to prevail on Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights as a Syrian entree to an international conference. Shultz refused to give such a commitment, considering it a debilitating demand and a precondition; this is contrary to what Shultz wants, which is that the proposed international conference be without preconditions.

The American administration's effort in its discussions with the Syrian regime were then aimed at setting the situation in Lebanon straight preparatory to the coming elections for the Presidency, whose constitutional term will end 23 September. Participating in these discussions on the American side were April Glassby, director of the Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan Desk in the American Department of State; Richard Murphy, assistant American secretary of state for Middle East affairs; and General Vernon Walters.

Agreement was reached between Walters and the Syrian president, according to the statement by political observers concerned with the situation on the Lebanese stage, after 3 hours of private talks between them in Damascus last 20 May concerning a number of points on the

situation in Lebanon, among the most important of which are:

- The continuation of the Syrian military presence in Lebanon until the conclusion of the activities of the proposed international conference.
- America's recognition of the basic role Syria plays in the region politically and strategically; the Syrian regime will deal with the situation in Lebanon in accordance with this role.
- The Syrian regime's observance of the interests in Israel's security zone boundaries and assistance in respecting the established bases which guarantee these security interests in Lebanon within the southern borders.
- The deployment of Syrian forces in the southern suburbs of Beirut with attention to maintenance of the safety of the foreign hostages detained there.
- The Lebanese presidential elections will take place on their constitutional date, provided that the next president and his cabinet are not hostile toward Israel and guarantee the continuation of the Syrian-American detente in Lebanon.
- The failure to use force in deploying the Syrian Army in Eastern Beirut, if the Lebanese forces refuse to give in to that, and deployment of the Lebanese Army in administrative Beirut provided that the Syrian Army withdraw from Beirut to the areas of Khaldah, 'Aliyah, and the al-Kharrub region and its extensions and that this Army be a force supporting the Lebanese legitimate forces as part of prior American agreement to the steps which it is intending to carry out.

Syria must control the Palestinian presence in Lebanon as part of the following:

- Reduction of the PLO's political and military influence in Lebanon to dismantle the Palestinian role which could emerge in the coming presidential elections, especially with the Lebanese national forces.
- Weakening of the Palestinian forces loyal to the PLO and its chairman, Yasir 'Arafat, especially the Fatah movement, the PLO's major force.
- Elimination of the PLO's military presence in Beirut and its suburbs in toto and restriction of Palestinian action to organizational and political work.
- Treatment of the Christian question in Lebanon through its leadership in Bakirki, embodied in the Maronite patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Saghir, especially since during George Shultz's latest visit when he appeared at the Vatican before his latest round of Middle East shuttles the Vatican convinced him to talk to Patriarch Saghir. The discussion took place during the latter's visit to Washington last 20 June. The talks took place at the site of the papal emissary to Washington (Biulanij), where the American administration presented to Saghir and the accompanying delegation what had been agreed to in Damascus regarding Syria's role in Lebanon, the coming elections, and control of the Palestinian presence.
- The revival of the truce agreement between Lebanon and Israel as a basis for dealings between the two countries. Observers note that Yitzhaq Rabin, the Israeli minister of defense, stipulated in his recent talks in Washington concerning the agreement on reviving the truce agreement that there be Palestinian disarmament in Lebanon, that guerrilla attacks on the northern Israeli settlements stop, that the causes of the activation and strength of the PLO in Beirut and the South be eliminated, and that the international emergency forces which, in Rabin's view, are in sympathy with the Palestinians and Lebanese resisting Israel and its agents withdraw.

Execution of the Scheme

Observers consider that the Syrian regime, having failed to reach agreement with the PLO in the course of the recent talks on three important matters—the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, the Palestinian-Egyptian relationship, and the introduction of forces into the PLO which are outside its framework but loyal to it—has ventured to carry out the scheme by fabricating struggles with the PLO, initially in the Beirut camps. Successive visits to Damascus on the part of some Lebanese political symbols of various tendencies have accompanied these struggles since the Syrian regime has demanded of its Lebanese visitors, especially those of an Islamic orientation, that it is necessary to put an end to all ties with the PLO and deal with the the "Salvation Front" as the Palestinians' legitimate representative which alone is allowed to act in political and organizational contexts in Lebanon. As examples of that, the observers cite telegraphs and statements from Lebanese circles which the various Syrian media publish condemning the PLO, holding it responsible for the fighting and glorifying the Syrian regime and its role in Lebanon.

The Syrian forces deployed in the al-Kharrub region have proceeded to arrest all Palestinian and Lebanese citizens opposing the Syrian scheme. The media have cited the arrest by Syrian intelligence agencies of more than 27 Lebanese and Palestinian citizens, including people they accuse of belonging to the Iraqi Ba'th Party, in the towns of Shahim, Dariya, 'Anut, and Katrama, and have stated that Walid Jumblatt subsequently facilitated the task of the deployment of the Syrian forces in the al-Kharrub region at the beginning of July when he evacuated his military positions, transferred them to political and organizational offices, and terminated the validity of transit permits through the Batra area.

Observers point out that the Syrian forces, by strengthening their presence in the al-Kharrub area, are trying to protect the route of their military and supply extensions for the time when execution of the second stage of the liquidation of the Palestinian armed presence in southern Lebanon comes due, especially since the PLO has a great force in the camps of the South and its positions there are considered the last spot left to it.

Syria has exerted influence on Lebanon as the latter has refused the holding of a conference of Arab foreign ministers which the Arab League council had called for on the basis of the PLO's request to discuss the situation in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. Lebanon informed the Secretariat General of the League of Arab States that Lebanon's security is an internal question, that it will not permit a distinction to be made between the Palestinian camps and any part of Lebanon, and that this sort of discussion will give permanent legitimacy to intervention in Lebanese internal affairs. Observers believe this Lebanese demand was made only under Syrian pressure.

The Syrian regime, through its media, has started to highlight what it calls the "Salvation Front" after a period of absence in the media. It has also restored solidarity to three groups in it which are normally considered totally subordinate to Syrian policy—al-Sa'iqah, the General Command, and the secessionist Abu Musa's group. These groups have started to prepare the suitable climate for the fabrication of conflict in the southern camps through talk about what they call a scheme to strike at their presence—which, according to references by observers, does not exceed 700 persons—preparatory to completing what was started in the Beirut camps.

Observers point out that Syria and its [decision]makers are aiming not just at weakening or eliminating the PLO's armed presence but at ending the organizational presence and all people sympathizing with the PLO since the news agencies have reported that after the fall and destruction of the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps the secessionist Abu Musa's groups began going among the people of the camps remaining in the neighborhoods of these camps and enticing them to go to Jordan where there were readymade dwellings in the al-Azraq area close to the Jordanian city of al-Zarqa'. Observers recall that the plan to move Palestinians in flight to al-Azraq appeared after the 1982 war, but the rapid return of the PLO to Lebanon thwarted this scheme. However, it appears that Syria has agreed to this matter with the king of Jordan, in the view of some political observers, in the context of the PLO's insistence on being represented at the international conference by an independent delegation on an equal footing with other parties. The Jordanian regime, through its many repressive methods, is trying to represent the Palestinians in Jordan by forcing Jordanian pasports on them, and the Syrian regime is trying to make the Palestinians remaining in Syria and Lebanon submit to the secessionist clique and what is called the "Salvation Front" so that it can play the Palestinian card at any future negotiations.

The PLO's Position on the Scheme

From the beginning, the PLO has disclosed this hostile scheme which is aimed at the entire Palestinian presence in Lebanon, has warned of the danger that it will be carried out, and has urged fraternal Arab countries, friendly countries, and all forces of liberation in the world in the direction of halting the execution of this fearful scheme which is aimed at striking the overall gains of the Palestinian struggle which the PLO has led through its long, difficult, and historic march.

It declares frankly and totally openly that the Palestinian presence in Lebanon is temporary; that the Palestinian role in Lebanon does not go beyond internal security and the struggle against the main enemy, preparatory to the return to the homeland; that Palestinians everywhere have rejected the principle of settlement, especially in Lebanon; and that the Palestinian presence is not the cause of Lebanese domestic struggles since it has become clear in an obvious, manifest manner that these struggles did not stop when the PLO departed as a military force from the Lebanese stage following the 1982 war, but that these struggles have remained and continued for various reasons which the Lebanese, Syrians, Palestinians, and all people knowledgeable about the situation on the Lebanese stage know.

The PLO is able to liquidate all secessionist manifestations within the Palestine national movement by various means, but it does not want to enter into a military confrontation with the Syrian forces, because such a confrontation would serve only enemies, especially in these circumstances which are delicate and critical to the Palestine cause, as this sort of confrontation would negatively and directly affect what is going on on the occupied territories. It would also lead one way or another to the obstruction of the pressing political activity the PLO's leaders are carrying out in the Arab and international contexts, in the framework of what is going on domestically, on behalf of realization of the Palestinian people's fixed legitimate national rights through the holding of an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Observers consider that the withdrawal of the PLO's forces from the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps was based on the organization's desire not to clash with the Syrian forces out of faith on its part that the armed Palestinian presence in Beirut is not strategic in light of the domestic Palestinian uprising, and that the organization will be able to bring its presence back to the camps in Beirut under suitable circumstances as it did after its departure from Beirut and Tripoli in 1982 and 1983.

The PLO's tentative goal at present for its presence in Lebanon is to guarantee the protection and security of the Palestinian people in the camps. As long as the Syrian forces are capable of that, as they claim, there is no harm in withdrawing in exchange for the absence of confrontation with the Syrian forces, especially since the Palestinians in Lebanon and elsewhere have proved that they are not ready to replace the PLO as their sole legitimate representative in spite of all the circumstances they have gone through. Political observers give as an example of that what happened in the al-Yarmuk camp near Damascus when Abu 'Ammar received such a reception by more than 30,000 Palestinians that the

Palestinians carried his car by hand, although the camp had been subjected to intensified activity by the secessionist clique and the forces of what are called the "Salvation Front," supported by Syria. Syrian intelligence was also observing the situation there closely. In addition, there was the broad mass rally by the inhabitants of the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps for the PLO's fighting men and against the secessionist clique.

The PLO informed the Lebanese president, Amin al-Jumayyil, through the chairman of its Executive Committee, Yasir 'Arafat, during their meeting at the extraordinary summit conference in Algiers that the organization would not have any role, positive or negative, in domestic, Lebanese, political struggles. It also informed the Syrian vice president, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, during the Palestinian-Syrian talks in Damascus at the end of April, that the organization was leaving the arrangement of the situation in Lebanon up to the wisdom of President al-Asad and his vice president, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

Therefore, observers consider that the key remains with the Syrian regime and the extent to which it is prepared to follow up on the execution of the scheme. Will the al-Asad regime follow up on the execution of its scheme which aims at liquidating the Palestinian presence supporting the PLO? Time alone will ensure the answer to this and other questions on the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, especially in the context of the clarity of the goals of this presence on the part of the PLO.

EGYPT

Opposition Leaders Discuss IMF Reform Requests

45040024A Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic 6 Oct 88 p 6

[Article by Ahmad al-Batriq: "Reservations About IMF Wishes By All Egyptian Parties"]

[Text] Despite the great disparity in the stands of Egyptian political parties toward dealing with the IMF, all think that solutions to Egypt's economic problem will not come from the fund or from any organization abroad. From beginning to end, the solutions lie inside our country. If there is to be recourse to foreign loans, it should be to achieve comprehensive development for the Egyptian people as a developing people.

Dr Jawdah 'Abd-al-Khaliq, professor of economics and chairman of the economics committee of the left-wing NPUG, said the IMF problem went back to the agreement signed between Egypt and the fund in 1987. Under the agreement, the fund was to help Egypt carry out economic reforms over the course of 1 and ½ years from the date of the agreement. These reforms were to include gradual unification of the exchange rate, lowering the deficit in the state's budget, elimination of imbalances in the price system, reviewing the prices of basic agricultural crops, and raising the local interest rate to encourage savings operations.

In return for these measures, the fund was providing $315 million and a certificate allowing rescheduling of Egyptian debts or entering into the negotiations of the Paris Club.

The chairman of the NPUG economics committee added that Egypt had already demonstrated its good intentions by establishing a free market for foreign currency.

He said that under the agreement the fund was reviewing the measures taken by the Egyptian Government. A dispute had arisen about the speed of implementing reforms. The Egyptian Government thought that the element of speed was causing social and political instability and had sought to implement the measures gradually.

At the same time, the deficit in the state's budget had risen from 16 percent to 20 percent because of a decline in government revenues and a rise in government expenditures due to unification of the exchange rate.

The fund, for its part, therefore announced that the Egyptian Government was not acting in earnest. This has now led the government to attempt to sign a new agreement with the fund, allowing the rescheduling of debts, something that has been held in abeyance because of the position of the fund.

Dr Jawdah 'Abd-al-Khaliq defined the NPUG's position on the problem as follows: The fund's demands require balancing economic conditions inside Egypt and the requirements of foreign transactions. This means that they strongly conflict with the NPUG thinking, which sees the domestic scene as fundamental. The real alternative to the IMF prescription is immediate commencement of a national austerity program, decreasing reliance on overseas as much as possible, and increasing government revenues by increasing direct taxes on income and luxury consumption. Tax and customs exemptions should be finally ended.

The one IMF demand that seems in agreement with the NPUG's program is increasing the price of basic agricultural food crops as an incentive for producers to increase their production, thus lessening reliance on food imported from abroad.

Stating the Wafd Party position, the chairman of the party's parliamentary caucus, Mr Yasin Siraj-al-Din, said that the IMF's terms were impacting social and economic conditions in Egypt, even though they had aimed at confronting conditions "honestly and realistically."

He said the Egyptian Government was not rejecting the fund's terms, but was asking for gradual implementation of these terms, particularly after a price rise unbearable to consumers.

At the same time, he thought strong opposition by the government and the political leadership was confronting pressure from the fund. The president's recent visit to influential European countries would, he believed, succeed somewhat in limiting pressures from the fund.

Yasin Siraj-al-Din stated that the Wafd Party would continue to support the need to lighten the load borne by citizens. The party was therefore calling on the government not to accept the fund's terms which, whatever their rationale, would only increase the hardship of life.

The chairman of the Wafd Party's parliamentary caucus thought the existing picture as a whole called on the government to make internal reforms, such as putting pressure on expenditures, rationalizing them, and working to increase production and improve its quality.

Stating the Liberal Party position, party General Secretary Mr Muhammad 'Abd-al-Shafi said the fund had a right to be reassured about the resources of a borrowing country. However, the borrowing country also had the right to argue with the fund about its internal conditions and attempt to persuade the fund about the way we think it could repay the debt and the interest.

He said that the problem for Egypt did not lie in the fund, "but in the borrowing process, the rates of which had increased beyond the abilities of the state to pay."

He therefore demanded that borrowing be stopped immediately and that part of available resources be devoted to repaying whatever we can repay without impacting the domestic economic situation.

He expressed reservations about what he considered interference in our internal affairs by the fund. He stated that the most the fund can do if we do not yield to its terms is to stop lending to us.

The general secretary of the Liberal Party thought that such a step—if it occurred—would be for the good of Egypt. Egypt would then be able to rely on its resources and live according to these resources.

On behalf of the coalition of the Labor Party and the Muslim Brotherhood, Mr Ahmad Mujahid, vice-chairman of the party, thought the economic open-door period had created Egypt's economic problem. He described the policies of the IMF and World Bank as stern and as having had a negative impact on the social and security situation in Egyptian society.

He said the solution lay essentially in lowering the deficit rate of the budget. Those who are able in the society should be made to carry the burdens, and production should be increased.

The lending countries should also contribute to solving the problem by cancelling some of the debts owed to them and lowering the interest rate. What the fund was implementing would lead to instability and the absence of a suitable climate for repaying debts.

Despite differences in programs, the Labor Party supported the policies of the NDP as long as these policies aim at lightening the burden of citizens. The party was for borrowing if it was to establish productive projects. Ahmad Mujahid thought these were policies to which the government was now in fact turning.

Finally, speaking for the Muslim Brotherhood, [parliamentary] deputy Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna said the brotherhood thought it necessary to keep away from the IMF so as to avoid its "unfair" terms which took no account of the domestic conditions of Egyptian society.

Instead, the people should be urged to work more. Expenditures by the government and people should be limited. Unemployed Egyptian workers should be used to reclaim the deserts. The solution lies not in turning toward foreign countries, but in turning inward.

Islamic activists appreciated the president's international efforts to emerge from the crisis, but they thought solutions lay with the Egyptian people, who should be induced to work, increase production, and put pressure on expenditures through a difficult program aiming at self- reliance in order to emerge from the crisis.

Effect of World Bank, IMF Policies Viewed

45040024B London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 30 Sep 88 p 43

[Article by Walid Abi-Murshid under the "Point of View" rubric: "A Crisis Farther Away Than Egypt"]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak's frank criticisms of the stern lending policy adopted by the IMF and World Bank do not so much express Egypt's complaint against the two international institutions as they express a general complaint that all countries of the Third World share with Egypt.

Egypt's problem with the two international organizations may perhaps be less onerous than the problem of other developing countries. Egypt, despite all economic difficulties and social obstacles, has succeeded in lowering the deficit in its current account for fiscal 1987-88 from $1.3 billion to below $1 billion. But the cost was not low; the saving was accomplished by a sharp cutback in imports, one that almost impeded industrial production in the country.

At a time when new storm clouds are gathering on the horizon of Third World indebtedness, the IMF and World Bank are holding their customary yearly meeting in Berlin in a traditional atmosphere suggesting that any serious, not to say radical, coming to terms with Third World debt remains dependent upon an American decision. This, in turn, awaits a new American President, one more sensitive to the organic relation between the Third and First Worlds in spite of the difference in development between them.

Over the last 40 years, the IMF and World Bank have lent Third World countries tens of billions of dollars and special drawing rights. The great majority of Third World countries were thus able to develop their national economies and establish their basic foundational structures. They were thus able to become a broad market for American exports. Sufficient proof of this is provided by the fact that the United States continued to record a trade surplus with the countries of Latin America until 1981.

Today, however, in light of persistent economic stagnation the picture has changed radically, and with it the needs and priorities of Third World countries have changed. Debt service has come to drain away income from their exports. This has been reflected in a sharp decrease in the size of their imports of Western-produced capital goods and in a collapse of their purchasing power. They have therefore had to limit their imports to basic foodstuffs supported by the Western exporting countries.

The collapse of Third World purchasing power has burdened the United States, more than other countries, with a $60 billion loss in export revenues over the past 6 years and also with a problem of increasing unemployment as jobs in export industries decrease.

Therefore, despite the classification of the world into differently numbered economic worlds, the interest of the United States in settling the developing countries' indebtedness problem and strengthening their growth process cannot be separated from the domestic welfare of [the American] economy and the welfare of [American] foreign trade. While Third World debts are the joint responsibility of creditor and debtor nations, the responsibility of the creditor nations—the interest-collecting nations—remains the primary responsibility when one takes into account their liberality in lending to Third World countries during the seventies, relying on economic facts they later worked to destroy—particularly, world prices for oil and other natural resources produced by the Third World.

Thus it appears that the difficulty experienced by Egypt and the Third World countries in their attempts to adapt to the austerity policies demanded by the IMF and World Bank (and behind them the Paris Club) arises from their inability to continue their course of development at a reasonable rate and from their having to divert more and more of their resources (shrinking in volume and value) to servicing foreign debts.

Additional 15 Thousand Barrels of Oil Daily Projected

45040023B Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 23 Sep 88 p 11

[Text] Within 2 years, 15,000 barrels of oil per day will be added to our stock. Geologist Husayn Kamil, head of the General Petroleum Company, stated that oil production has begun in the North 'Amir area in the Gulf of Suez at a rate of approximately 2,500 barrels per day from a single well. In a month, this will reach 4,000 barrels per day after production from a second well has begun. He said that after the underground reservoirs have been evaluated, six additional wells will be drilled from existing marine platforms to increase production to 15,000 barrels per day within 2 years.

It should be mentioned that the marine platforms belonging to the public-sector Egyptian Petroleum Company were erected and manufactured by Egyptian hands.

Justice Ministry Reports 18,425 Bankruptcies

45000030 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 3 October 88 p 1

[Report by Muhammad al-Minyawi]

[Text] Statistics issued by the Ministry of Justice confirm that the courts have tried 18,425 bankruptcy cases filed in one year. These bankruptcy cases include production companies, poultry farms, and commercial stores.

The Port Sa'id courts alone are trying 1,245 of these bankruptcy cases. The statistics showed that the reasons behind these bankruptcy petitions are the failure of the debtors to repay their debts due to the increase in their debt burden and the banks' compound interest.

Ministry of Tourism Plans Use of Taba Tourist Sites

45000019 Cairo EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 4 Oct 88 p 2

[Article by Muhammad Al-Sayyid: "Inclusive Plan To Exploit Taba Tourist Sites"]

[Text] The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr Fu'ad Sultan, yesterday stated that a comprehensive plan was finalised in order to make use of the tourist sites in Taba, adding that all facilities will be provided to serve tourism in this area.

The minister further stated that a marine route will be operated between the Jordanian port of Al-'Aqabah and Taba.

At an inaugural ceremony of the October International Sailing Championship held in Abu-Qir, Alexandria, the

minister appreciated the holding of such a championship in this tourist site.

The minister, moreover, stated that a sailing championship will be organised next January to start from Cairo along the Nile to Aswan passing through many important tourist sites, with the aim of increasing tourist activities and attracting more tourists.

As for this year's tourist season, the minister stated that the number of tourist nights increased by 43 percent.

Mr Sultan, furthermore, stated that the ministry is keen to encourage investors to establish tourist projects in Sinai or along the Red Sea coast.

Furthermore, Mr Sultan stated that three committees were formed with the aim of promoting tourist activities during winter months in order to be put on the international tourist map.

War Minister Discusses Developments in Egyptian Military Industry

45040032 Cairo AL-DIFA' in Arabic Oct 88 pp 6-10

[Interview With Marshal Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-Ghazalah, deputy prime minister, minister of defense and war production and Armed Forces' general commander, by Major General Dr Isma'il Muhammad Shawqi; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Egypt celebrates this month the anniversary of the great victory of the October 1973 War when the Egyptian Army crossed the Suez Canal and demolished the Bar-lev line, the biggest barrier known to military history, in 6 hours, thus scoring the sweetest and most magnificent military victory.

On the occasion of this anniversary that is sweet to the heart of Arabs generally and of Egypt in particular, AL-DIFA' has conducted a frank interview with Marshal Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-Ghazalah, the deputy prime minister, minister of defense and war production and the Armed Forces' general commander, who answered a number of questions connected with that war and with its current ramifications.

[Question] The October War had its far-reaching consequences on Egypt's Arab and international military relations. Can your excellency explain the positive accomplishments achieved in this area?

[Answer] All the October 1973 War consequences which have had an impact on Egypt's Arab and international military relations emanated from a number of facts which have acted and which continue to act as our guide at the strategic level:

First, despite all the wars it has waged, Egypt considers war an abnormal condition and considers peace, prosperity, and freedom the normal pattern of the life of nations. This is why our objectives have always been to defend our country.

Our modern history contains no expansionist or aggressive intentions or actions. When the October War ended, we did not seek another war but sought to engage in political movement that serves to strengthen our defense of our land.

In the October War and thereafter, our position was founded on the ideal principles of international relations and on our true awareness of the worth of liberation, independence, and the sanctity of a free and pure national will.

Our plans called for strengthening the Egyptian-Arab harmony in managing the October War to achieve the unity of goal, thinking, and defensive means and so as not to sacrifice Arab defense relations. [passage omitted]

[Question] The combat equipment consumption rate during the October War was enormous and exceeded considerably the World War II consumption rates. Consequently, the importance of focusing on the national war industry to meet the Armed Forces' vital demands became obvious. This focusing has been reflected in creation of the National War Production Authority and the Arab Industrialization Authority. Recent years have seen sophisticated Egyptian production turned out by the plants of these authorities. This production has met a part of Egypt's and the Arab countries' needs in this area.

Can your excellency explain to us the new types of military equipment and weapons scheduled to be produced and the means to finance the research on and production of these systems and equipment?

[Answer] The Egyptian military industrialization and production policy is drawn in accordance with careful and precise plans based on securing the Armed Forces' needs according to likely hostilities and in light of international technological progress. This policy is divided into 5-year plans which have their defined objectives and sources.

These plans are financed by several sources, namely:

- The military grants we get from friendly countries.
- Self-financing.
- Budget appropriations allocated for the purpose.

Out of our conviction of the importance of intrinsic development in the area of armament technology, the Armed Forces have focused their efforts on the development and modernization areas, seeking whatever is new in the world arsenals, devoting a large part of the defense budget to the purpose, and exploiting the grants received

in the best manner possible by channeling them toward financing these activities, and by allowing our scientists and experts to participate in research activities that strengthen the Egyptian weapons industry.

As for the new types scheduled to be produced, they are numerous and incorporate vital and significant equipment in all areas and all branches of the Armed Forces.

For example:

- We are currently participating with the United States in research to produce the third generation of shoulder-carried guided anti-tank missiles with an accuracy rate of 98 percent.
- Having obtained the concession to produce the (M-A) tank, we have actually launched the initial phases of the local production of some parts of the tank. This production will expand with the introduction of the supplementary industries in the subsequent production phases.
- We have succeeded in producing initial models of guided drones. We are now in the phase of developing these models to produce them in quantity.
- Surface-to-air and air-to-air electronic obstruction stations have been developed and are now in the phase of quantitative production.
- The Sinai-23 air defense system has been developed and its components have been fitted into the M-113 armored vehicle. This system is now ready to be produced in volume.
- Participation in nearly completed research to develop munitions and to enhance their piercing capability.
- Developing missile-carrying boats and fitting them with modern fire management systems and with sophisticated antisubmarine armament programs.

[Question] The great October victory led Egypt to embrace the method of negotiation as a top priority in obtaining legitimate national rights rather than resorting to armed conflict. The adoption of this method has led to completing liberation of the Sinai Peninsula from the Israeli occupation. There is no doubt that the effective success of this approach has been behind the change in the fixed political concepts of some Arab countries, considering that it was recently annouunced that Morocco and the Polisario, Somalia, and Ethiopia have resorted to negotiations to settle their disputes.

What is your excellency's assessment of these developments and of their reflection on Egyptian national security and Arab security generally?

[Answer] [Passage omitted] Without the distinguished Egyptian military performance, Israel would not have agreed to the principle of negotiation and would not have agreed to change its method of dealing with the occupied territory within the framework of the military arrogance it had previously displayed. [passage omitted] Therefore, plain success in war is what creates the thread and line of negotiation. The greater our negotiating experience and the stronger the force supporting this negotiation, the more strongly will we persuade the other side.

The truth is that this is the lesson we have given the area's countries, including Israel. This lesson began in 1974 and bore its fruits in 1979, i.e. 10 years ago. Considering that some of the area's countries have resorted to this approach only recently, it has perhaps taken them too long to learn from the lesson or it is perhaps that the outcome of their military operations did not convince them to negotiate until lately. The fact is that we must not understand negotiation, just negotiation, to mean a solution. A solution emanates fundamentally from the comprehensive political, economic, psychological, and military force that supports negotiation. We must also not forget the Egyptian popular consensus which supported ending the war and embarking on the peace negotiations. Therefore, our Arab security is enhanced when we possess the power to prevent and deter war and to act as a support on which the negotiator can lean. Wars, with all the successes and victories that they may offer, are tantamount to a snare to our future generations. Wars erupt only because one side feels that the other side is weak, and herein lies the significance of the force that supports peace.

[Question] Your excellency held a key position during the October War. There is no doubt that you carry memories of the period of preparation for that war or of the war period itself. Can your excellency tell the reader about some of these memories?

[Answer] [Passage omitted] Combat is the most sublime manifestation of collective action. Each of us has his role, duty, and responsibility. If a flaw develops in the role of the smallest colleague, then then entire collective action becomes flawed. Therefore, there is no place for memories about ranks or positions. The honorable individual memories about which we must talk are the memories of the upright heroic martyrs who preceded us and the memories of the upright heroes who were wounded in the war. These are the lessons and memories that are beneficial to our children and to our future generations.

[Box on Page 10] Why Did Israeli Authorities Confiscate AL-DIFA'?

Clarification and Apology

Since its founding, AL-DIFA' has taken a firm position based on embracing the Arab world's national security and military strategy issues with utter objectivity, relying on the pens of the most prominent specialists in this area. This has been a cause of the great trust the Arab reader has given this magazine, thus helping its current widespread circulation and enabling it to top, in terms of

circulation and demand, the Arab world's major magazines that are specialized in this area. The Israeli authorities confiscated all copies of the magazine's September 1988 issue which were designated for distribution in the occupied territories. While apologizing to the West Bank and Gaza Strip inhabitants who have not been able to get the magazine for this reason, AL-DIFA' declares to the Arab reader that it is committed to moving forward with the policy it has adopted since its publication, regardless of any confiscation decisions.

Second Field Army Developing Combat Equipment, Arms

45000020 Cairo EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 8 Oct 88 p 3

[Text] Major General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, Commander of the Second Field Army, yesterday said that all divisions of the army are now much more efficient, concerning readiness for action and arms, compared with the time of the October War. He pointed out that the Second Field Army is developing its arms within the framework of the comprehensive plan of the Armed Forces to develop Egyptian military industries so as to reduce military expenditure and to realise better results.

Major General Tantawi also said that the military industries development plan includes the development of arms and equipment so as to perform more than one task at the same time. "In this domain, the Second Field Army has participated in developing the eastern-built T-55 tank as well as the tank carriers," he pointed out.

The Second Field Army, he added, is also participating in the implementation of the development plan by removing mines from Sinai in order to ensure safety for reconstruction projects.

Concerning the ground troops, Major General Tantawi said that the Armed Forces started to develop arms and equipment to enable such troops to carry out several tasks using the same equipment.

As regards the Navy, he said that the Navy has been keen to possess multi-purpose units such as missile-boats and small frigates which are very efficient.

Major General Tantawi added that the development of air defence has been planned so as to keep up-to-date with developments in aircraft technology.

Ministry of Education Agent Wants Mosques in All Elementary Schools

45000024 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 13 Oct 88 p 7

[Text] Fathi Hasan Muhammad, undersecretary of the Ministry of Education, has stressed in al-Jizah the necessity of having a mosque or place of prayer in every school in the governorate to enable students to practice recitation of their religious lessons there. This came yesterday during his tour of al-Badrashayn, when he inspected the activities of the training course for elementary-grade mathematics teachers in order to study advanced programs. He requested that Ahmad Shindi, director of education in Badrashayn, supervise the preparation by teachers individually for their lessons and prevent any teacher from conducting class without preparation.

Article Criticizes 'Sinful Extravagance' of Rich

45040023A Cairo AL-I'TISAM in Arabic Sep 88 pp 18-19

[Article by "Abu Muhammad": "'Emperor' Samir Sabri—Everybody Happy at Birthday Party of Lucky Samir 'Pasha' Sabri; Kisses, Whiskey, Public Dancing; 1,000 Guests With 1,000 Bottles of Whiskey Stay Up Until Morning to the Gyrations of Sahar Hamdi and Music of Ahmad Fu'ad Hasan"]

[Text] I confess that my writing ability failed me when I set out to comment on the report that the newspaper AL-MASA' published about the birthday of the distinguished master-artist Samir Sabri. I was at a loss as to where to begin and on what elements to concentrate.

Should I talk about the social facts, the political facts, or the economic facts—or about some other facts that contributed to producing behavior like that engaged in by a distinguished artist named Hasan Sabri, formerly a radio announcer, currently an actor and singer?

What I know (as we were told by AL-MASA') is that the "distinguished" artist began receiving his guests from 11 pm to 1 am in a major hotel in the bustling city of Cairo. He greeted his guests with hugs and kisses (kissing men and women alike). Then the party began. It was attended by 1,000 guests, led by the most famous female dancers and male and female movie actors in Egypt. Rivers of whiskey were poured and turned their heads. They lived it up and had a good time until 7 am the next day. Employees of the hotel said the party cost approximately 50,000 Egyptian pounds.

Had an opposition newspaper published this item, we would have said it was exaggerating and trying to stir up "misgivings" (as the political lexicon puts it). But the item was published by a government newspaper that cannot be accused of stirring up "misgivings" or exaggerating.

What does it mean?

It means that the society in which we live is going through a strange and unique disaster perhaps unprecedented in the history of Egypt.

The great majority of the society goes barefoot at the break of every day, looking for a bottle of oil, a kilo of sugar, or a loaf of bread.

Most individuals in the society (especially employees) live in worry night and day, searching for a source to provide life's necessities, only a half or quarter of which their monthly salaries can cover.

From dawn to dusk, all the members of the society (except for the class of the artists, the well-to-do, and soldiers of the revolution) endure all sorts of things—transportation, food, housing, marriage, education, inflation, looseness, corruption, bribery, slackness, and the media.

And there is the psychological, emotional, social, and economic affliction that presses heavily on the people's nerves, making this open immorality in which the well-off class participated to honor the "distinguished" artist Samir Sabri something about which one cannot remain silent or let pass without an accounting. Otherwise, the volcanos that will erupt from the behavior of this class as individuals or as a group will be something very natural, and no one will have the right to say the eruptions are "extremism," "Takfir wa Hijrah," or other such terms of opprobrium.

Anyone has the right to celebrate his birthday (though the debased custom is non-Islamic), and anyone has the right to invite whomever he wishes to whatever place he wishes. But society has the right to be free of shameless corruption and symbols of shameless corruption. Also, society has the right to ask about the source of the sinful extravagance that pours dozens of crates of whiskey into the bellies of a thousand guests at a cost of 50,000 pounds while there are thousands of families that see a piece of meat only on holidays and at feasts. Society has the right to ask how long this class of well-to-do people will continue in its error and corruption without being called to task with even a mild reproof or a request that it hide itself when it practices such vice or shameless corruption.

One wonders when the government prosecutes sincerely religious young people and handles them with extreme cruelty, using the most modern means of torture to force them to abandon their religiousness, while it spares shameless corruption and handles it considerately—indeed, almost adopts it!

One wonders, when money flows like rivers under the feet of the well-to-do class while "drought" threatens most of the productive and creative classes of society. Just imagine: A university professor who has reached the top of the university ladder draws an average salary of 500 pounds a month (6,000 pounds a year). In a year, eight professors would earn 48,000 pounds—2,000 pounds less than the 50,000 that the "distinguished" artist Samir Sabri spent on one party to celebrate the joyous occasion of his birthday!

What a difference! What an imbalance!

Before holding his party, the "distinguished" artist Samir Sabri, together with a certain female dancer, made 960,000 pounds (40,000 less than 1 million) from a hotel, as the newspapers reported. One asks:

- Do scholars or the cream of society, who possess creative minds and rare experience, earn such sums over their entire professional lives?
- Did Samir Sabri and his dancer partner pay the taxes they owe to the state?
- What unique and outstanding effort caused them to obtain such a huge sum?
- As a phenomenon, Samir Sabri's shameless birthday celebration raises a thousand and one questions. But the first question is, "Where are you going, O homeland?" Answer us, God help you!

[Box, p 19]

We saw not a single Egyptian journalist, except the editor of AL-MASA', describe what happened as "an insane volcano," "reprehensible extremism," "Takfir wa Hijrah," or any of the terms of opprobrium invented by the government media and writers of the national press.

You who go barefoot for the sake of a bottle of oil, a bar of soap, or a kilo of sugar, don't read this report of "spoiled child" Samir Sabri's birthday party!

JORDAN

Phosphate Profits and Projections Described

JN0111083888 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—Wasif 'Azar, director general of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, has said that phosphate extraction at the fourth site in the al-Shidiyah area will begin next month for the first time. He said 50,000 tonnes are expected to be produced initially at this site. According to geological studies, he said, this site contains 1 billion tonnes of this exportable material.

'Azar told AL-DUSTUR that 60 percent of the kingdom contains phosphate layers and that phosphate production over the next 20 years will be from an area not exceeding 10-square km producing 6 million tonnes annually.

'Azar indicated that the phosphate company is expected to make a profit of $40-$45 million this year. He said the fertilizer company will make profits for the first time in 1988.

He affirmed that the Phosphate Mines Company totally depends on domestic labor throughout all stages of production.

KUWAIT

Islamic Institute Prepares for Academic Year

44040034A Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 23 Aug 88 p 2

[Article by Fahd al-'Irak]

[Text] The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is taking measures and making necessary arrangements for opening the Islamic Studies Institute—the improved system proposed for the beginning of the 1988-89 academic year—and to receive the first class of male and female graduates of Dar al-Qur'an al-Karim.

A special committee has been charged with making certain changes in the plan of studies and the curriculum and examining suitable textbooks in connection with this. Because of the real scarcity of suitable textbooks, guidelines and specifications have been established for these books. The job of writing them has been assigned to people capable in the field. The books will be printed by the ministry's press, as is the case with some textbooks assigned at Dar al-Qur'an al-Karim (improved system and old system) and the Islamic Studies Institute (old system); for example, the texts assigned for doctrine, hadith, and jurisprudence, and the text on Koranic recitation ("Al-Farid fi Fann al-Tajwid").

A class of 16 male and 19 female students was graduated from the Islamic Studies Institute (old system).

As regards Koran memorization classes in the mosques, summer classes for Koran memorization were opened. The number of students during this year's summer term was 1,662. Prizes were distributed to students who were successful in the final elimination rounds at the end of the term.

The number of students registered in the winter term Koran memorization classes, which ran from 6 October 1987 to the end of April 1988, was 2,799.

Study of Water Resources Discussed

44040034B Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 5 Sep 88 p 2

[Excerpt] [Passage Omitted] An official at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research explained that the development of water resources has three components. The most important of them is expanding the resource base with the aim of alleviating the restrictions of limited resources as much as possible through hydrogeological and hydrological studies and research, developing new ways of desalinization, and evaluating the technical, economic, social, and political feasibility of various supplementary resources.

Proposals have ranged from desalinization techniques to the importing of fresh water. The institute will continue to acquire direct knowledge in the local environment about the operating conditions of various desalinization methods such as the use of solar power or reverse osmosis. At the same time, it will continue to study the economic feasibility and technical considerations of other methods of obtaining supplementary resources. The Earth Sciences Section will turn more of its attention to research on ground water and on learning the characteristics of the places where it lies hidden.

He went on to say that the second dimension focuses on the achievement of good use of water resources and aims at studying various ways of adequate use of available water resources in factories, agriculture, and home now and in the future. This includes the use of treated water, taking into account the integral connection in Kuwait between the production of fresh water and the production of electricity.

He indicated that traditional ways of irrigation involve great waste, possibly leading to degradation of soil and plant quality, and that industrial and home uses are causing the loss of huge quantities of this scarce, vital resource.

The third dimension deals with studies and research into balancing water supply and demand. It aims at defining the real cost of various ways of satisfying current and predicted demand for water. Alternatives that will realize a lower total cost will be deduced, and a number of alternative growth rates for population, national income, and individual income will be tested from the point of view of their demands on financial or human resources to determine the optimal solution.

This will be realized by analyzing how predicted increases in consumption will affect liquid and gaseous fuel requirements in power and desalinization plants. Minimum cost alternatives for providing various water demands will be evaluated. The role of each domestic and external source in satisfying national requirements will be determined. This will be done in the context of studies required by the Ministry of Electricity and Water.

LEBANON

Circumstances of Assassination of AMAL Leaders Analyzed

44040049 Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI 1 Oct 88 pp 26, 27

[Article: "Who Lies behind the Assassination of the AMAL Movement Commanders? Possibilities, Motives, and Goals of the People Benefiting from It"]

[Text] At 1330 hours in the afternoon on Thursday, 22 September 1988, unknown persons assassinated three of the AMAL movement's military leaders in southern Lebanon as they were returning to the South after a meeting in Beirut with the movement's leader, Nabih Birri.

The assassination took place in the al-Awza'i section, south of the capital in the area the Syrian Army controls. It is considered an area of Hizballah influence. The assassination stirred a great uproar within the movement and within Lebanon and provoked numerous questions on the motives for the assassination and the body which was behind it.

Before talking about motives it is necessary to present theories on the body behind this incident on an important day in the history of Lebanon, the date of the end of the Presidency of Amin al-Jumayyil and the date of the formation of a transitional military cabinet under the premiership of the commander of the Army, Michel 'Awn. There are a number of possibilities concerning the body which might be benefiting from this assassination and these are:

The First Possibility

It is expected—and this is what the news agencies related—that it is the Hizballah that lies behind the assassination, for a number of reasons, the most important of which are:

1. There is an ongoing conflict between the Hizballah and the AMAL over the leadership and command of Shi'ites in Lebanon. Dawud Dawud, the AMAL commander in southern Lebanon, was the commander of the fighting which led to the "expulsion" and eviction of Hizballah personnel from southern Lebanon, and he led a number of battles. Mahmud Faqih, the director of the movement's organizational bureau, and Hasan Sabti, the assistant director of the bureau, helped him, and the assassination is considered in effect revenge for what happened in the South.

[2.] The assassination of these personnel could weaken the AMAL and put it in a difficult position, especially since the assassination could also have been directed at Mahmud Faqih in his capacity as director of the "organizational" bureau in southern Lebanon. This bureau, of course, is harrassing the Hizballah, because AMAL has managed to organize a large number of Shi'ite personnel within its ranks.

3. The location of the assassination was in an area with which the personnel of Hizballah specifically are familiar, the al-Awza'i section, and they were able to escape. It was a successful, effective plan as far as the people who carried it out and executed it were concerned.

4. Dawud Dawud was not a commander of the AMAL movement alone—rather, he was one of the military commanders who prevented members of the Hizballah from carrying out operations in northern Israel, and he was in contact with the international observer officers in southern Lebanon and consequently was the contact officer for the cease fire in the South, meeting with Israeli commanders through international observers to repress any incidents occurring in southern Lebanon against the Army of Southern Lebanon. He believed in the need to resist the occupying force within the area of the security belt alone, and not beyond that. That of course obstructed Hizballah's action in resisting and making gains in the media. It is said that he would constantly chase any force from the Hizballah which attacked the security belt area, would pursue and prevent it from functioning in southern Lebanon.

More precisely, he appointed himself a commander of southern Lebanon through his military "strength."

The Second Possibility

The conflict within the AMAL movement led to the assassination, especially since there has been a bitter struggle over leadership. There were numerous attempts to isolate Dawud Dawud, but they did not bear fruit. It is said that Nabih Birri himself was not greatly satisfied with Dawud's conduct, fearing that he would compete for leadership of the movement. Supporting this sort of possibility are the following reasons:

- Who knew of the meeting between Dawud and his assistants and Nabih Birri in Beirut?
- Who knew of the time of these leaders' departure from the Lebanese capital and the direction they were headed?
- Who knew that these people got into a white Mercedes?
- The assassination took place in al-Awza'i to remove doubts over the presence of internal disputes.
- Who knew that Dawud's meeting with Birri was an "ordinary meeting" and was not a "heated one" during which Dawud Dawud put pressure on Birri, provoked him and challenged him?

There are numerous questions which favor this viable possibility, and it is not at all farfetched.

The Third Possibility

The Palestinians in southern Lebanon have not forgotten the siege of the camps (which the AMAL movement imposed, under Dawud Dawud's leadership), and they have not forgotten the sufferings they faced during this period, especially since Dawud Dawud was persona non grata and was not loved by the Palestinians. This possibility is viable but it remains weak.

The Fourth Possibility

The Lebanese Forces themselves lay behind this assassination, for numerous reasons:

To weaken the AMAL movement militarily, as Dawud Dawud is considered a senior military commander in the movement, especially since there is a bitter dispute between the Phalange and the AMAL movement. His

assassination took place on an important day when the Lebanese Forces wanted to establish their presence, especially since the AMAL movement is totally loyal to Syria.

Another indication is that the Phalange are against the Syrian schemes and directed this operation to weaken the Syrian presence, deliver a slap to the Syrian regime, and assert to it that the Lebanese Forces reject all intervention in Lebanon's internal affairs. This assassination is in effect a "clear message" to the Syrian regime.

The Fifth Possibility

The Syrian regime is behind the assassination, especially since the assassination took place in the same area where its forces are present and control, and where they observe everything. It would have the goal beyond that of:

- Inflaming the fire of strife again in southern Lebanon and re-establishing combat over the camps between the leaders and the Lebanese militias. Such infighting would lead to the demand by numerous bodies that Syria have a more effective role, intervene in an obvious manner through its forces, and consequently get them headed toward southern Lebanon under the pretext of preserving calm and implanting security around the camps, especially since the assassination led to the outbreak of violent clashes between the Palestinians and the forces of the AMAL movement in southern Lebanon.
- Dawud Dawud was considered a competing commander while, if the Syrian forces came in and terminated and liquidated him, that would mean removing a military commander in the way of the Syrian military commanders who might go to southern Lebanon.
- Giving the Syrian Nationalist Party room to move in a more effective manner by weakening the AMAL movement's organizational force in southern Lebanon.
- Weakening the AMAL movement and suggesting to it that it is in urgent need of Syrian support, especially after the assassination had created an obvious vacuum within the AMAL movement, organizationally and militarily. There might be people more loyal to Syria who would assume the vacant positions after the assassination of the three commanders.

The Sixth Possibility

A foreign body could be behind the assassination operation, aimed at inflaming dissension, and this body supports Israel. It could be the Army of Southern Lebanon itself, under the leadership of Antoine Lahad, aiming at weakening the AMAL movement and inflaming struggles again since Dawud Dawud was considered a commander competing with Antoine Lahad in southern Lebanon and Dawud allowed his personnel to attack the Army of Southern Lebanon and permitted operations within the security belt. In other words, he constituted a threat to Antoine Lahad; in particular, if Dawud were to reach an agreement against him with foreign forces, he would then be in a difficult situation, far from power, and the inflammation of infighting within southern Lebanon would have its efffects on military operations against the security belt. Moreover it would put southern Lebanon on the list of media preoccupations, though it had been neglected for a long period.

All these are possibilities. Of course, if the people who carried out the operation (the assassination operation) are arrested, that will not mean that these people are representing a specific body, because they might not be the real criminals. The best possibility remains the body which will benefit the most. What southern Lebanon or Lebanon will witness is disclosure of the party behind the assassination operation, because that will be the party benefiting the most from the conditions and events which Lebanon might witness in the coming weeks.

Arab, International Reaction to Postponement of Election Summarized

44040056 Beirut AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 15 Oct 88 pp 20-21

[Article by Nabil Khalifah: "Fourth Lebanese Option: President for All Seasons; Lebanon Tests Arabs and World; Superpowers' Determination Surpasses Arab 'Aspirations'"]

[Text] Is Lebanon, the state and the entity, capable and worthy of survival?

This bitter question, which was asked in whispers during the Lebanese war, is being asked openly and seriously now that the latest dramatic developments which led to a vacant Presidency and to the creation of two governments in the country have exposed the country to major perils, have aroused the international community's interest, and have caused numerous parties to fear that the country will be partitioned as a consequence. This [fear] is certainly reflected in the region's countries. French researcher Dominique Chevalier, an expert on Lebanese affairs, has frequently stated that "any change in Lebanon's borders will inevitably lead to a change in the borders of the region's countries."

What are the Arab positions on what is happening in Lebanon currently?

What have been the reactions of the international forces?

What are the possible observations on the controversial relationship between these positions and Lebanon's historical position at present?

Arab Positions

The Arab countries' positions were previously captive to their preconceived theories on Lebanon's situation. But these countries have now begun to view the issue more seriously because the partitioning of Lebanon is no longer a mere possibility but a near existing reality entrenched by law and by the actual situation. In light of this developpment, the Arab axes have engaged in an active campaign of accusations whereas the Arab League has been trying to contain the Lebanese situation.

Arab League Secretary General Chadli Kilibi has launched three personal initiatives on Lebanon:

On 24 September 1988, Klibi appealed to all Lebanese to "reject partition and to seek presidential elections quickly." He also urged the Lebanese, with their various positions and sects, to put "Lebanon's unity and independence above all other considerations" and warned them that the challenge facing them is a "challenge of survival and destiny." Klibi noted that the "Arab countries will not abandon their pan-Arab role of safeguarding Lebanon's existence, unity, and independence."

On 26 September 1988, Kilibi sent to the Arab kings and presidents messages (whose text has not been published in the press) asking them to "do their utmost to contribute to solving Lebanon's crisis."

Syria, which is more concerned than others with the Lebanon question, has made no official comment on the formation of General 'Awn's cabinet. However, the Syrian media have launched severe campaigns against this interim cabinet and have accused East Beirut's Christian forces of isolationism and of dealing with Israel and with the Baghdad-'Arafat-Egypt pact!

On 23 September 1988, the Syrian broadcasting station characterized 'Awn's cabinet as a "monstrosity" and a "caricature" and said that the Lebanese "do not acknowledge this cabinet, considering that there is a legitimate cabinet that represents all the Lebanese factions and reflects Lebanon's unity and identity."

A Damascus Radio commentary on 29 September 1988 considered the military cabinet to be formed by "a minority in every geographic, ethnic, and political sense of the word—a minority which has pounced on the presidential position." The commentary stressed that the "foundations of Lebanon's existence are based on concord." But the commentary expressed the belief that "despite what has happened—and what has happened is very big and serious—the opportunity is still available, and it is not too late to rescue Lebanon's unity." This is the task of the Lebanese national forces, embodied in the national conference which was held at the Bristol Hotel on 29 September 1988 and which stressed its rejection of partition, urging a speedy election and stressing its adherence to the al-Huss cabinet.

As for Egypt, it hastened to appeal to the Lebanese on 24 September 1988, urging them to "resist the foreign intervention which constitutes the main cause of their country's deteriorating situation." In its appeal, Egypt said: "You must fight and eliminate foreign intervention." Egypt also censured the sects' leaders for being "preoccupied with their personal interests." At the UN General Assembly, Egypt's minister of foreign affairs criticized the regtional parties that interfere in Lebanon's affairs and warned that these parties' "regional ambitions will not lead to achieving their security."

President Husni Mubarak also discussed the Lebanon situation during his tour of a number of European capitals, especially Paris, and urged the international community to move to "keep Lebanon a united country." The Egyptian president warned that partitioning Lebanon will lead to an "Arab catastrophe," urged the Lebanese to elect their own president and appealed for letting the Lebanese make their own decision without foreign intervention (27 September 1988).

Jordan was the first Arab country to comment officially on the failure to hold presidential elections and on the struggle for power. Hani al-Khasawinah, Jordan's minister of information, expressed his country's concern over these developments, saying (on 24 September 1988): "This delicate phase of Lebanon's life requires from all Arab parties concerned a calm diplomacy that seeks to prevent a deepening of the split and of the bleeding wounds in the body Lebanese and to focus on the positive elements."

Algeria commented on Lebanon's situation through AL-MUJAHID on 24 September 1988, saying formation of the military cabinet was tantamount to the starting point for new confrontations and for nurturing the ghost of partition. Algeria wondered about the meaning of putting a military man at the head of this cabinet.

In a related development, the official APS reported on 26 September 1988 that the Algerian ambassador in Beirut met "with Dr Salim al-Huss, the prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and handed him a message addressed from Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi to his Lebanese counterpart." This act implicitly reflects Algeria's recognition of Prime Minister al-Huss' government.

On 26 September 1988, Libya urged, through Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the need to "transform Lebanon into a people's jamahiriyah to save it from being partitioned into several mini-states and to block the path in the face of sectarian conflicts and of the imperialist-Zionist plot." In his appeal to the Lebanese, al-Qadhdhafi said: "The Lebanese people's crystallization of the people's authority will end the conflicts and will, consequently, end a despotic phase of Lebanon's history and will crystallize the civilized model of direct democracy."

Iraq attacked Syria's policy in Lebanon. On 29 September 1988, INA accused Syria of "concluding a deal with foreign parties to share influence over Lebanon, to determine its political future, and to destroy its Constitution."

Through King Fahd ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has expressed its "sincere support for Lebanon." At a cabinet meeting on 26 September 1988, the Saudi monarch stressed that "Lebanon's regrettable condition concerns not only the Lebanese but the entire Arab nation. We will not hesitate to exert our efforts to help Lebanon," adding that the kingdom does not interfere in any country's domestic affairs. Therefore, the kingdom urges the "Lebanese in this most critical moment to exert their utmost efforts so that the Chamber of Deputies may hold a session to elect a president before all control over Lebanon is lost."

On 30 September 1988, the Arab foreign ministers issued a statement in New York expressing their "grave concern over the developments of the Lebanese crisis and over the dangers of this continued crisis to Lebanon's future, security, and safety." The ministers stressed their "complete support for Lebanon's unity, Arabism, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and their rejection of any endeavor to fragment or partition Lebanon." The statement urged all the Lebanese to renounce their disagreements, to unite their ranks, and to redouble their efforts to "achieve national concord and to elect a president of the republic so Lebanon may regain its Arab role within its Arab family."

International Position

The Lebanese crisis has attracted a large part of the international community's attention, especially in the halls of the United Nations.

On 29 September 1988, the foreign ministers of the five permanent Security Council members held a meeting in the presence of the UN secretary general in which they discussed regional issues. The question of Lebanon was raised on the initiative of French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. The five ministers agreed to keep the Security Council's attention on the Lebanon issue and empowered the secretary general to express their concern over the siituation in Lebanon. Shortly afterwards, a UN spokesman stated in the conferees' name that the "five ministers reasserted their firm commitment to the unity of Lebanon, its territories, and its sovereignty."

Through President Mitterrand, France has taken a firm position reflected in the speech which the French president made before the UN General Assembly on 29 September 1988 and in which he said that his country, which is bound to Lebanon by special historical ties, "will not capitulate to the vision of the disappearance of this country's independence and unity and calls on the United Nations to witness the obstacles erected in Lebanon in the face of the free exercise of the people's sovereignty. France also urges Lebanon's neighbors to act rationally." Mitterrand added: "A Lebanon dominated by concord and peace poses a threat to nobody, whereas a divided and disputed Lebanon will continue to be a source of instability for all."

Through Greece's minister of foreign affairs, the European Community called for facilitating a presidential election "with utter freedom and without any foreign pressures so that the elected president may be able to launch the task of reconciliation and of preserving Lebanon's unity, independence, territorial integrity, and sovereignty."

The United States has expressed the belief that "This is the severest threat to face Lebanon in its entire history. It is a threat that requires a courageous leadership and help from Lebanon's friends." Summing up his country's position on the Lebanese situation in an address delivered on 27 September 1988 to the U.S. working team concerned with Lebanon, Doss Walker, a U.S. assistant undersecretary of state, said: "The U.S. position has been firmly defined and this position is that the United States supports Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity. We are also committed to the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon." Walker added: "We have a commitment to Lebanon's stability and unity—a commitment generated by our historical friendship with Lebanon." Concluding, Walker said: "If the past 13 years and Lebanon's entire history provide us with any lesson, then this lesson is that there is no military solution for Lebanon's problems and that there will be no military solutions in Lebanon to the security concerns of Lebanon's neighbors. No foreign power, be it a major power or a regional power, can impose its favored solution on the Lebanese through force of arms."

The Soviet Union has expressed its concern over the situation in Lebanon. Perfilyev, a spokesman of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, said on 28 September 1988 that it is important "not to let civil war erupt anew and to block the path in the face of what is even worse, namely the collapse of the State of Lebanon." The tormented Lebanese people "do not want partitionment or renewed bloodshed." The Soviet spokesman called for putting Lebanon's national interest above everything else, for holding the presidential elections in accordance with the Constitution, and for preserving Lebanon as an independent and united Arab state.

In a second statement issued within 24 hours of the first, the Soviets warned of a "catastrophe if the developments continue to move in the current fashion." NOVOSTY, citing PRAVDA (29 September 1988), said: "Having the country without a president and under the canopy of two governments constitutes a new turning point in the development of events. The new situation borders on finally partitioning the country." The catastrophe is due

to the fact that the "various sects are so intricately entwined geographically and economically that partitioning of the country will mean disrupting the bonds, life, and future of tens and hundreds of thousands of people."

Observations and Facts

In the light of this review of the Arab and international positions on the Lebanese crisis, what are the observations and facts that can be concluded from this review in its entirety?

1. With the absence of the Presidency and the presence of two warring governments, Lebanon's crisis is entering an extremely serious and delicate phase that harbors within its folds the possibility of blowing up Lebanon, both state and entity.

2. The position of the five major powers (the permanent Security Council members) confirms beyond any doubt that the international wager continues to be on the greater lebanon, with its entity and its unity. Moreover, the Lebanese balance is simultaneously a cause and a consequence of the regional and international balance. Therefore, Lebanon, as a country with a mission between the Arab world and the Western countries, is still called upon to perform this mission. Other countries continue to have an interest and advantage in Lebanon's continued survival.

3. The Arab reactions, important as they are, have not risen to the level of the serious situation created by Lebanon's conditions. Excluding the goodwill expressed by Arab League Secretary General Chadli Kilibi—a goodwill reflecting his love for Lebanon, a love of which the Lebanese are aware—the Arab positions have ranged from hopes to factionalism. Those expressing hope have appealed to the Lebanese and urged them to elect a president and to achieve concord among themselves (as if this were possible) and those expressing factional positions enter as a party supporting this or that faction, thus becoming a party in the conflict and involving Lebanon or a part of Lebanon in the Arab struggle axes.

4. It has become evident to all that there are three fundamental forces that will determine the fate of Lebanon's presidential election: The Christian forces, Syria, and the United States.

In the first round (18 August 1988), Syria, with its support for ex-President Franjiyah, confronted the Christian forces and the United States.

In the second round (22 September 1988), the Christian forces confronted Syria and the United States who had agreed to nominate deputy Mikha'il al-Dahir.

5. It will be possible to overcome the current crisis just through agreement on a president enjoying Christian support, Syrian consent, and U.S. approval, i.e., through agreement on the fourth option (some say the third option). This agreement is not easy, though not impossible. France has a very major role in efforts to bring this possibility to a happy conclusion now that France has proven that it is the most loyal and sincere power supporting Lebanon. It is certain that France's proposal to assign UN forces to oversee a free election will not be accepted by those harmed by this proposal.

However, the Lebanese, who have become experts on the policies of other countries by virtue of experience, have already begun to reiterate that repatriation of the Palestinians in South Lebanon has become a part of the battle of the Presidency and of the president.

We have to either wait until convocation of the international conference (in 2 years) without a president or to confront the repatriation and the occupation with a Presidency and with determination. The coming days will show what the Lebanese are capable of, how far the others will go in their schemes, and what the Security Council can decide and do in connection with the Lebanon issue.

QATAR

Progress in Agriculture Discussed

44040035a Doha AL-RAYAH in Arabic 30 Aug 88 p 4

[Text] Doha (QNA)—His Highness Shaykh Faysal ibn Thani Al Thani, Minister of Industry and Agriculture, stated that thanks to the support given by the government, under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and his crown prince, the ministry has made great strides both in the fields of agriculture and industry.

In a statement to QNA on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the country's independence on 3 September, the minister said that the agricultural policy which the ministry pursues, under the guidance of the wise policy which his highness the amir and his crown prince have established, has yielded satisfactory results which augur well for agriculture, which is a new activity in the State of Qatar.

The minister said that agricultural production last year was worth 325 million riyals whereas in 1982 it was 212 million riyals, which means that during the past six years income from this source increased by 113 million riyals.

The minister stated that the cultivable area has increased from 42,203 dunums in 1986 to 48,350 dunums in 1987, which has enabled the area planted with vegetables to increase to 15,473 dunums, while grain crops increased to 9,276 dunums, clover to 7,921 dunums, and fruits and dates to 15,680 dunums.

The minister of industry and agriculture attributed this increase to the citizens' investment in the agricultural sector and to the increase in the number of farms to 907 by the end of 1987. This was due to the material and technical assistance the ministry provides to the farmers.

Shaykh Faysal bin Thani Al Thani affirmed that the agricultural sector is a dynamic sector and investment results are not immediately reaped; in other words, what is invested this year does not necessarily bear fruit the same year. He also said that the ministry's policy to increase agricultural production is a development policy primarily based on utilizing available agricultural resources, such as water and other production requirements.

Discussing the animal resources sector, Shaykh Faysal bin Thani Al Thani said that the Qatar Arab Poultry Production Company has expanded considerably in order to produce sufficient meat and eggs all year long. Production capacity for the project will increase to 3.5 million chicken and 55 million eggs annually.

Replying to a question regarding the sheep farm in Abu Samrah, the minister said that this too has been substantially developed in that there are now 11,199 head of sheep and 780 dunums of reclaimed farmland, and meat sales during 1987 totaled about 2,000 head.

Speaking about future plans and programs, the minister of industry and agriculture told QNA that there are several plans aimed at developing the agricultural sector.

The minister also affirmed that water is the most influential factor affecting all plans and programs. Therefore, he added, there are ongoing programs aimed at defining available quantities of subterranean waters and other programs aimed at increasing this reserve. Efforts are also being made to modernize irrigation systems and build protected farm roads, as well as select agricultural crops that need smaller quantities of water.

In conclusion, Shaykh Faysal bin Thani Al Thani stressed that the ministry is continuing its program to give material and technical assistance to farmers in view of the positive effect this has on developing the agricultural sector, in order to achieve the state's desire to attain self-sufficiency.

SYRIA

Water Resources, Irrigation Projects Described

44040341 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Jul 88 p 7

[Article by Rasim al-Wa'ri]

[Text] Ground water reserves are the basic support of Syria's surface water resources in view of the scarcity of the latter, especially rivers and lakes, which are limited to the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers, which pass through the country, and the al-'Asi and Barada rivers in the interior. Natural lakes are almost absent, except for Qattinah Lake near the city of Hims, which is fed by the al-'Asi River. The other lakes are man-made, and formed behind dams.

Thus, we see that ground water plays a basic role in many agricultural projects relying on irrigation in different areas in the country.

Several official agencies concerned with the ground water problem in the country, studied the locations of water resources and reserves, as well as practical, correct ways to exploit them which are neither unfair nor wasteful.

These studies divided the country into eight water basins in which it was necessary to undertake new, model, agricultural programs using the newest, modern irrigation techniques—from drip to sprinkling—in order to conserve ground water resources, which have become exposed to great waste as a result of undesirable irrigation methods which employ inundation.

This is what happened in the regions of al-Salmiyah, al-Bab, Damsarkhu, Qalmun, Saydnaya , and al-Qutayfah.

Damascus Basin

The area of the basin is 6,850 square km, and its annual water supply totals 1,411 million cubic meters, of which 1,151 million cubic meters are ground water and 200 million cubic meters are surface water. The most important projects of this basin are:

- The Jayrud project, which covers an area of 4,200 hectares.
- The A'waj irrigation project, which covers an area of 17,500 hectares.

Al-'Asi Basin

The area of the basin is 16,200 square km, and its annual water supply totals 2,454 million cubic meters of which 1,509 million cubic meters are ground water and 890 million cubic meters are surface water. The most important projects of this basin are:

- The Al-'Asi and Qattinah irrigation project, which covers an area of 1,500 hectares.
- The Hims-al-Salmiyah irrigation project, which covers an area of 42,600 hectares.
- The al-Suqaylabiyah-Khan Shaykhun irrigation project, which covers an area of 16,000 hectares.
- The al-Sarut irrigation project, which covers an area of 6,000 hectares.
- The al-Dawrat irrigation project, which covers an area of 23,000 hectares.

Coast Basin

The area of the basin is 5,100 square km, and its annual water supply totals 2,335 million cubic meters, of which 778 million cubic meters are ground water and 1,557 million cubic meters are surface water. The most important projects of this basin are:

- The Sahl 'Akkar project, which covers an area of 24,000 hectares.
- The al-Abrash irrigation project, which covers an area of 8,700 hectares.
- The al-Nasiriyah irrigation project, which covers an area of 4,500 hectares.
- The Jawbar irrigation project, which covers an area of 2,000 hectares.

Halab Basin

The area of the basin is 21,000 square km, and its annual water supply totals 904 million cubic meters, of which 538 million cubic meters are ground water and 366 million cubic meters are surface water. The most important projects of this basin are:

- The 'Afrin River irrigation project, which covers an area of 7,500 hectares.
- The al-Sajur irrigation project, which covers an area of 6,250 hectares.

Al-Yarmuk Basin

The area of the basin is 5,700 square km, and its annual water supply totals 445.5 million cubic meters, of which 264.5 million cubic meters are ground water and 181 million cubic meters are surface water. The most important future projects are the construction of a number of reservoir dams on wadis.

Al-Badiyah [desert] Basin

The area of the basin is 74,000 square km, and its annual water supply totals 47.8 million cubic meters in the Syrian part of al-Hamad basin, of which 17.5 million cubic meters are ground water and 30.3 million cubic meters are surface water.

The most important projects of this basin are: The exploitation of surface and ground water, and the improvement of 4,000 square km of grazing land in the Syrian part of al-Hamad basin in a pioneering project.

Euphrates Basin

The area of the basin is 64,100 square km, and its annual water supply in the al-Khabur Basin totals only 1,527 million cubic meters, of which 1,500 million cubic meters are ground water and 27 million cubic meters are surface water.

Tigris River Basin

This is a water passage on the borders of Turkey, Iraq, and Syria. Its annual surface water supply totals approximately 18,000 billion cubic meters. A quick calculation shows that our surface and ground water resources total 9.1123 billion cubic meters, excluding the Tigris River, of which 5.758 billion cubic meters are ground water and 3.254 billion cubic meters are surface water.

In this basin, it was necessary to use modern methods to implement agricultural irrigation projects covering an area of 167,750 hectares. Practical reality has, however, differed from theory. To date, there has not been issued, as a first step, a group of decrees and legal stipulations which determine procedures to control the exploitation of ground water in a correct manner. Each individual has dug a well on his land, using its water as he wishes without controlling the quantity which is permitted to be drawn daily to prevent the water level from being depleted, as has happened in several areas of the country.

The application of modern irrigation methods, especially drip irrigation, is carried out by laying a dense network of pipes which supply water directly to the roots. This method decreases the amount of water needed to irrigate fruit trees and vegetables by 50-60 percent, and 30-35 percent respectively, and enables the direct application of nutrients and insecticides along with irrigation water. Irrigation by sprinkling has the advantage of saving 30-35 percent of the water necessary to irrigate all kinds of crops.

There is another type of sophisticated surface irrigation which comprises a network of pipes connected to a remote water source between 50 and 125 meters away; this source is opened to irrigate crops only when needed, and provides the required quantity of water.

It should be mentioned that these three methods proved their economic advantage in the country during experiments performed by the Arab League in the Yarmuk summer program, in which a benefits analysis demonstrated the advantage of using these three advanced methods. The success of these experiments suggested the possibility of applying these systems to areas with scarce water resources, such as Halab, Idlib, Manbij, al-Bab, al-Safirah, the coastal plain, state farms, and others.

However, in reality, these methods were not applied except in a few cases, and the problem remains unsolved. Any solution depends on supplying the requirements of these irrigation methods, such as pipes, control systems and others.

Any discussion about ground water and how to exploit it in the country would touch on dozens of topics, ranging from failure to success in in using this huge water resource, which can be considered the savior of agriculture during drought years.

This year, rain fell plentifully over all areas of the country. We should have taken advantage of every drop of rain that fell, but a very large portion of the rain water was wasted. This happened in the case of the al-'Asi river, which flooded Qattinah Lake, and rose to a peak of 200 million cubic meters, its maximum capacity. The runoff inundated peasants' farms, and caused losses whose material value cannot be underrated. If we had constructed groups of dams as was recommended, we would not have fallen into this predicament, and the rain water would have been at our disposal to be used in conjunction with our ground water reservoirs in drought years, thereby avoiding the pressure currently being exerted on ground water in the face of scarce rain.

Finally:

It is necessary that we emphasize the importance of organizing operations for the best exploitation of ground water resources. We must organize modern irrigation, and not leave the door wide open to the incorrect use of ground water.

Have we begun, or are we at the mercy of nature?

BANGLADESH

Ershad Takes Steps To Expedite Industrialization

46001081 Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 24 Aug 88 pp 1, 8

[Text] In a major policy-revamping move to gear up implementation process and improve institutional arrangements for expediting the pace of industrialisation, the government announced yesterday the formation of a Board of Investment.

The operational facilities for joint ventures and the [funding] arrangements for industrial units have also been streamlined under the new move.

President H. M. Ershad made the announcement about the new policy move at a meeting of National Council for Industrial Development (NCID), held at Bangabhaban.

The Board of Investment will have a Governing Body headed by the President, an Executive Council with the Industries Minister as its chief and an Executive Board for its day-to-day operations.

The existing multi-tier system and procedural formalities relating to industrial investment sanctions or approvals, entitlement of industrial units to imports, etc will be replaced by a simple and straightforward arrangement.

With the Board of Investment coming into operation as a Statutory body, ten existing or department committees connected with implementation of the Industrial Policy will cease to function. The departments or committees include Department of Industries, Investment Board, Sub Committees of the Investment Board, Bangladesh Licensing Board, High-Powered Industrial Facilities Board, Hard-Term Loan Committee for foreign currency loans for private industrial investments, Standing Committee on appointment of Foreign consultants, Working Group for National Council for Industrial Development (NCID), Executive Committee and Standing Committee of NCID.

The new board of Investment will accord approval to industrial projects on a package basis. The sanctioned projects will have power facilities, gas connections and all other support arrangements in one-go operation under the package permission system.

It will be vested with all responsibilities connected with implementation of Industrial Policy and other laws. Arrangements and procedures relating to industrial operations. It's Board of Governors will sanction private sector projects involving local and foreign capital for investments exceeding Tk 30 crore and Tk 20 crore respectively. The Executive Council of the Board will approve all other projects.

Joint Venture

Under the new policy-revamping move no prior permission will be needed for setting up joint venture industrial units where (1) foreign equity participation will not exceed 49 percent of total equity capital, (2) total equity capital will not exceed Taka 100 million and (3) the related units are not included in the Discouraged List of Industries. Such industrial units will only get themselves registered with the Board of Investment.

In cases where projects are sanctioned by commercial banks, Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS), Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB) or any other Development Financing Institution (DFI), the concerned agencies or institutions will themselves have the right to accord approvals to joint ventures where foreign equity participation is not over 49 per cent.

No separate approval of the Board of Investment will be needed for deciding the entitlement to import of industrial raw materials in areas or sectors where Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), commercial banks, BSRS and BSB have powers to approve sanctions. The approvals of the sanctioning agency will be final about the use of local and importable industrial raw materials in this connection.

Under the new decisions there will be no compulsion for foreign sponsors of projects set up initially on a joint venture basis, to sell their shares through public issue.

Tax Incentives

The newly set-up industries will be given protection for four years through either ban on import of industrial products produced by the related units, or tariff protection. The existing tax relief measures will remain effective up to the year 2000. Tax holiday incentives will be in effect for promoting investments for Balancing Modernisation, Replacement and Expansion (BMRE) in developed and least developed areas for three, five and seven years respectively.

There will be no discrimination between a public sector, industrial unit and a private sector industrial unit in financing facilities or infrastructural arrangements.

The existing facilities for rebate in payment of customs duty for government organisations or autonomous corporations will be withdrawn. If necessary, the government can only grant subsidies to such bodies.

In areas of working capital arrangements for industrial units both BSB and BSRS must provide guarantees for their aided projects about the provision of working capital in cooperation with the commercial banks. The nationalised commercial banks will likewise simultaneously arrange working capital for their funded projects and will follow the same procedures and policies as that of BSB and BSRS in this connection.

Working Capital

The decision about working capital arrangements must be intimidated within two months after the applications for the same are received and renewal thereof must be made before the expiry of the scheduled period.

The banks will charge the rate of interest as mentioned in the Industrial Policy on a uniform basis and must under no circumstances change the same.

Bangladesh Bank will decide the sector-wise allocation for working capital for industries and the exact amount of working capital requirements will also be decided under the same formula.

The nationalised commercial banks will provide working capital support to the industrial units during the period of commercial production without any collateral policy. If they require, they can demand a margin coverage from the sponsors in this connection. The margin requirements will be decided by the banks on the basis of their relationship with the sponsors as their clients but such requirement will not exceed 20 per cent in case of small industries and 30 per cent for small and large industries.

The banks will ensure effective decentralisation for sanction of working capital to the industrial units. The managing directors of the banks, the new policy move of the government suggests, should have powers to sanction working capital loans up to Tk 50 lakh, in place of existing Tk 5 lakh limit.

Under the new policy-revamping move, the Power Development Board in place of existing Electric Power Consultant and Directorate of Chief Electric Power Inspection.

A new department in the style of 'Patent, Design and Trade Marks Department' under the Ministry of Industries will be established through the merger of patents and trade marks directorates. A National Productivity Organisation under the Ministry of Industries will be set up and the existing Bangladesh Productivity Centre under the Ministry of Labour will come under the new organisation.

A long-term plan will be prepared for setting up appropriate industrial projects in the model of the then EPIDC to ensure 'balanced regional development' and to create adequate employment opportunities. Such projects will be undertaken in areas and sectors where profitable industrial units can be set up but the private investments are not yet forthcoming. BSCIC and other sector corporations will be provided with necessary funds and investment operational rights. The units, so set up under this programme, will ultimately be handed over to the private sector.

Government Establishes Cultural Commission
46001088 Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 30 Aug 88 pp 1, 8

[Text] A 15-member high-powered commission was set up yesterday by the government to formulate appropriate guidelines, policies and plans to give a total identity to country's culture, its demands and development and to ensure uplift of the overall national culture.

According to an official announcement, the commission called "Bangladesh Jatiya Sangskritik Commission" would be composed of eminent educationists, artists, litterateurs and cultural experts. [sentence as published] It would be headed by Prof Syed Ali Ahsan as chairman.

Other members of the commission are: Principal Dewan Mohammad Azraf, M. K. Alam Chowdhury, MP, Laila Arjumand Banu, Dr Ashraf Siddiqui, Dr Abdullah Al-Muti Sharfuddin, Sayeed Ahmed, Dr Mohammad Muniruzzaman, Dr Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal, Dr Enamul Haq, Mustafa Manwar, Dr Mahmud Shah Qureshi, Abdur Razzak, Professor, Institute of Arts and Crafts, Dhaka University, and Prof Dr Alauddin Al Azad, who would act as member-secretary of the commission.

The cultural commission would formulate policies on the national identity of Bangladesh, flourishment of culture of this region in the context of religious faiths and aspirations of the people, suggest policy guidelines for cultural media, bring into focus the life of the people and identify appropriate policies and specialties for songs, dances and fine arts. It would also chalk out policies on architectural style for the country depending on its history, climate and cultural specialties.

The commission will prepare and circulate a questionnaire to the cultural-minded people to elicit public opinion and take opinion from different shades of people including politicians, educationists, professionals, administrators, etc.

It will submit its recommendations and outlines of the programme along with the final report by December 31 this year.

INDIA

Commentary on Importance of Himalayas to India's Defense
46240001 New Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 1 Sep 88 p 6

[Text] Majumdar, former colonel in the Indian army, tells an anecdote in his "Military History of India." He had gone to Korea as chief of the Indian contingent forming part of the United Nations peace force monitoring the Korean cease-fire. In the course of a discussion with a Chinese brigadier regarding Indochinese relations, the brigadier suddenly said, "Let me tell you a Chinese tale." In fact the Chinese war policy has been summed up in this folk tale.

There was a mountain touching the sky. On the south side of it were fertile fields and prosperous and peaceful people. They were sure that so long as this mountain is their guardian nobody could do them any harm. On the north of the mountain was a colony of rats. The rats had known that across the mountain there were green fields. Therefore they resolved to cross the mountain and move to the other side. But sometimes there was snow and at other times there was rain, sometimes they were swept away by rivulets and sometimes they were crushed by hurling rocks. Despite Herculean efforts the rats could not climb the mountain. One day they suddenly halted attempts to climb the mountain. The mountain smiled with pride and happily went to sleep. When it woke up, it was taken aback. Millions of rats were eating away the fields in the south. Then he understood. While the rats were making attempts to climb the mountain, they were at the same time also digging a tunnel underneath. The mountain was feeling pleased by dislodging them. However, right under his nose the rats were making their way.

Several years later when China invaded India, our defense factories were producing coffee machines and other household goods. We came to know of the big Chinese attack only when they came on top of us. Neither the great mountain nor our love for peace could save us. In fact, by believing the Himalayas to be our sole defender, we were going too far. Had we kept in mind the country's history, we would have realized that this country had been often attacked by crossing these very mountains.

Our most terrible mistake after independence was that we did not evolve any military policy about the Himalayas. Security and foreign policy are two sides of the same coin. We could not understand growing Asian political nationalism because our leaders of those days were heady with confused notions of humanism, socialism, and romanticism concerning democracy. To dismiss the Chinese threat to Ladakh with the remark, "Not a blade of grass grows there," is possible only for those who are utterly out of touch with reality. This simple remark of Pandit Nehru sums up our policy about the Himalayas. For Jawahar Lal Nehru of the Gangetic-Jamuna plains and his adviser Krishna Menon of Deccan plateau, the importance of foreign policy and the related defense policy lay only in providing an opportunity to invent daily new words and phrases. In the face of reality these verbal weapons melted into thin air one by one. Among these one was Panchsheel. In a short period of time all the signatories to the Panchsheel got involved in terrible wars and conflicts, whether it was Nasir's Egypt, or Sukarno's Indonesia, Nehru's India or Mao's China. If Yugoslavia remained at peace, it was because of fear of Stalin. It was stupid even to imagine that China would never attack India. This stupidity was possible only because nations' history, and political and territorial aspirations and economic needs were not appreciated. It should have been realized that merely on account of geographical location, area, population and future possibilities, India and China will remain natural rivals.

The tragic part of the Himalayan policy was acceptance of complete Chinese control over Tibet. Its dangers were clear even then. Sources of all our rivers and all the glaciers lie in Tibet. The boundary between Tibet and India has never been clearly defined. Mac Mahon Line is not the sort of line from which one may easily lay a finger on the boundary separating two countries. It was easy to understand that this situation was ripe for a border conflict. And once signs of a border conflict began appearing, there was a mistake in concluding that this dispute did not arise from natural misunderstandings but rather that it had been deliberately fanned and the objective was not the capture of a few barren hills but the conquest of the Himalayas. Even today China is not keeping Tibet under its control at a huge expense because China is getting any economic advantage out of Tibet but because it is China's chief citadel.

The third aspect is not providing facilities to the border states and peoples to join in the Indian mainstream. The policy adopted toward these tribes was identical with the one adopted by the British. Even after independence the belief persisted that the border people and the tribes are Indian only in the administrative sense. In absence of any clear policy regarding national identity, these tribes continued to drift away even afterwards. The Christian missionaries further intensified this trend. It is no accident that the Chinese attack occurred in only those very areas and not in the northern Garhwal-Kumaon and Himachal areas even though the most traditional trade routes between India and Tibet have been through these regions. China could not make a psychological dent in these areas whereas in the northeast, the climate was more favorable.

Now the conditions are completely different. China is now emerging as a military superpower. Among many countries on our border, Islamization is gathering momentum, be it Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan or Iran. Nepal has not been well-disposed toward us. Under these conditions what should we do? Let's start with the pinnacle of military power. In other words what is our atomic policy vis-a-vis China. So far all the debate has been conducted in reference to Pakistan. The military experts probably do not see any point having a detailed discussion with reference to China because there has developed a wide gap in the atomic capabilities of the two countries.

The Foreign Relations Committee of the American Senate recently got a report prepared from Peter Galbraith, the South Asian expert on stopping nuclear proliferation in this region. Galbraith put a new proposal before India and Pakistan. India and Pakistan should get the authority to inspect one of each other's atomic facilities. It will be for the other country to decide which facility will be inspected. This will eliminate Pakistan's complaint that if the condition of international inspection is being imposed on it, India should also be subjected to similar

conditions. According to Galbraith Pakistan has welcomed this proposal enthusiastically but India's reception has been somewhat cool. Even then he is sure that India will agree finally because India stands to gain from this. Pakistan has only one such atomic facility where bomb grade nuclear fuel may be prepared covertly whereas India has several. Even if one Indian atomic center is brought within the scope of inspection, India still will be left with a few sources of fuel.

The question is why India is being permitted to keep nuclear fuel-making facilities and why has Pakistan agreed to it? In fact the complete proposal is that in addition to India and Pakistan, Tibet and some parts of southern China should be declared nuclear-free zones. Clearly this proposal has meaning only if China is willing that it will not only not construct atomic centers in Tibet but that it will also not build nuclear bomb bases and bases of missiles with atomic warheads. Pakistan has been talked into believing that with the resolution of the Afghanistan issue it has nothing to fear from Russia while a controversy continues to rage between China and India. That is why no proposal aimed at limiting nuclear arms in South Asia can succeed without taking into account Chinese nuclear facilities.

Will China agree to it? It is true that atomic facilities and missile bases in Tibet can pose a threat to India. But who can give a guarantee that relations between Russia and China will not deteriorate once again and even if Russia is prepared to give such a guarantee will China accept it genuinely. And there still remains the question of America's worldwide interests. Once nuclear weapons are banned from India, Pakistan and also Tibet and southern China, there remains no basis for American presence in this region. Will America give up its right of patroling this region so easily? Perhaps this issue is not so important. Because it is not impossible that relations between Russia and America may improve still further and the two superpowers may divide the world into their respective spheres of influence. If America can gain advantage in some other region, it may withdraw from this area. But China cannot withdraw.

In this connection our prime minister has proposed another childish plan. During his last foreign visit, he proposed a three-point nuclear disarmament plan. According to this the superpowers will first have to reduce their own nuclear stockpiles. Next the second class nuclear nations will have to agree that in the matter of nuclear weapons they will stop wherever they are and finally countries like India and Pakistan will decide not to make atomic weapons even though they have the capability of doing so. With reference to this proposal, where do we stand vis-a-vis China? In nuclear power, China today is far ahead of India. In military power, it ranks after America and Russia. Its missile power is also third in the world whereas we are still using missiles with a range of 250 kilometers. If even today a nuclear freeze is decided between India and China we will forever remain under the threat of Chinese domination. When we are prepared to give up our rights in matters of the most effective means of war and security, it will not be possible to modernize conventional military power. We will not be able to protect either our economic or our cultural or political rights in the regions adjacent to us. That is why despite immediate threat from Pakistan, the real danger to us is from across the Himalayas. We are already 40 years behind in development of our Himalayan policy. But all is not lost yet. By concentrating all our attention on Pakistan we will not be able to achieve our security objectives. Bhutto, the father of Pakistani bomb concept, had said that "China is Pakistan's plus factor." This will remain valid in the future also. Therefore China's intentions, power and weaknesses occupy a place of importance in our (national) security policy.

Writer Examines Reasons for Communism's Failure

46240007 New Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 14 Oct 88 p 6

[Article by Ishan Khan]

[Text] In our country, farmer and labour organizations again and again become strong, and then fracture. Having emerged, they get scattered due to lack of direction. Those claiming the leadership of the laborers are most responsible for this deterioration. From the time right before independence leaders such as Muzaffar Ahmed, Sripad Amrit Dange, M. N. Roy, A. K. Goplan and Harekrishna Kondar emerged on the scene agitating for change in the Indian communist system. Yet the communists played no significant role in the efforts to stop partition as Gandhi did. The result of this was that as independence came, the communist movement went into the background. In World War II, the communist's reputation was enhanced in the international arena, but in India it did not meet with this success. In the hands of the Congress leadership, A capitalist system came into being and in the country, due to the newly acquired independence, a flood of nationalism was created in which communists were characterized as antireligion and usurpers of personal property. Due to partition, communal sentiments flared up and for this reason the ongoing publicity regarding communists had an effect on the people. Indian communists were not able to understand Indian society's mentality.

Indian communists were not able to benefit from the communist revolution in China. They were left in the misunderstanding that after the revolution in China, the red flag would also be raised in India on it's own. They forgot that Mao's success was possible only after 20 years of the Long March. Indian communists made propaganda out of the Chinese revolution and announced that India was not yet free. On one side the whole country was swaying in their intoxication that the country was a free republic and on the other side some communists were pleading for freedom in their national weekly SWADHINATA [INDEPENDENCE].

The Chinese revolution placed yet another problem before the communists. As matters stood, the members of the communist party had been looking with increasing hope toward the Chinese revolution, but after the break between China and Russia, the party split into two groups. The Marxist Communist Party openly became China supporters, and the Indian Communist Party did not let go of Russia's coattails.

In spite of splitting into two groups, the mutual fight was limited principally to statements. Whether Stalin was genuine or not, whether according to Mao, a world revolution would occur or not. These type of disputes went on and began to destroy both parties' relationships with the general public. To break this stalemate, Charu Majumdar announced his revolutionary movement at Naxalbari. He wanted to raise the red flag over the parliament in Delhi. Yet after the intense developments of a few years, the Naxalite faction also , in the end, settled down as a new party; Marxist-Leninist. Another Bengali communist, Shivdas Ghosh, at times using high sounding talk, declared his the real revolution. Advancing Maoist doctrines, he wanted a revolution in his own country. According to him, both communist parties were agents of bourgeois groups, sought the easy road and their leaders had become soft. No revolution was to be expected from their quarter. Perhaps because of their disgust with the communist parties, this party took the name Socialst Unity Center. Perhaps for this reason also, the farm laborers organization called itself Lenin Sarini [Army of Lenin] in order to establish the party's relationship with the original revolutionaty.

Exerting power among ordinary people is one matter, yet communists cannot exert their influence in the Parliamentary Security Room. Lenin had the policy that in the parliament, labor representatives needed to say something daily, whether their numbers were small or not. In opposition to official legislation, their own legislation needed to be submitted. Yet in the Indian Parliament, in spite of a fairly good numerical representation, the communists generally follow behind other parties. Communist strategy for establishing labor organizations and connecting them with the communist movement was also unsuccesful because in this type of movement, in place of the interests of the labor classes, the interests of the leaders or party is the main concern. Datta Samant could guide a labor movement for 1 ½ years, but it is a big deal if a movement is sustained for a week in the communist parties. In reality, up to a point, the Naxalites allegation that the communist leadership is indistinguisable from borgeois leadership is true. Most leaders are from prominent families. Up to now, no son of a Harijan [outcaste] has been made a top leader of these parties. Seldom has a common farmer made it to the politburo.

Some people take comfort that a communist administration has come about in West Bengal. Yet it is a point of dispute whether Joyti Basu has been successful on the strength of communism or of Bengalism. Generally, it seems to people that Joyti Basu's success is in the category of Andhra Pradesh's Ram Rao or Tamil Nadu's deceased Ramachandran. This doesn't mean that the communist party's power is not increasing in West Bengal. Yet it is not so solid that just any revolutionary changes can be supported. The problem with Indian Communists is that they want to teach people their theories and idioms, yet they themselves don't want to learn about life, temperments or necessities. Communists also have the difficulty that up to now, they haven't made themselves Indian in thought. To be successful in a country like India, the communist party must be Indianized. But is this possible under the present framework and under the present prejudiced leadership?

IRAN

Postwar Reconstruction Needs Careful Planning

46000024 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 11 Oct 88 p 3

[Text] Oil prices, during the recent weeks, plunged to the lowest level after the 1986 oil crisis. On European markets, the Dubai Light tumbled to $9.65 per barrel. That is nearly half of OPEC's official price of $18 a barrel. This article aims at finding out the root cause for this new development.

This price slump can be studied from two angles—political and commercial.

It would be naivety to look at the situation as a normal outcome of the oil market mechanism and consider it to be just a commercial phenomenon. It is true that at present the OPEC production is 20 million barrels a day; i.e. 2.5 million barrels more than the total production ceiling of the oil organization's twelve members as well as that of Iraq.

This additional quantity is intentionally being produced by the Arab oil producing countries in the Persian Gulf region. They are doing this with specific political objectives. Oil price cuts is not a new tool utilized by the Persian Gulf Arab oil producers. During the past years, they have regularly made use of it for bringing about economic pressure on Iran.

It is obvious that the possibilities for Iran to sell its oil to those countries which were not inclined to purchase Iranian oil because of political reasons increased after Iran accepted the U.N. Resolution 598 and the cease-fire became effective on 20 August 1988. Moreover, such countries have started resuming economic ties with Iran enabling it to regain some of its former oil customers in the international oil market.

Consequently, the Persian Gulf Arab countries will lose some of their present buyers.

The observers see the visit of the oil minister of Iraq to Hijaz and other oil-producing Arab states in the region in the current week and also Riyadh's search of attracting new customers by offering substantial price discounts and increasing its oil output to further reduce the already declining oil prices, as efforts towards reaching the above-mentioned objective.

The current transformations being brought about in oil industry should serve us as a good lesson and be a warming on the eve of launching the postwar reconstruction program.

Iran's oil reserves are estimated to last for just two or three decades. Economic experts have, time and again, warned of the formidable consequences awaiting the countries that depend upon a single-source economy of oil. Iran is no exception. Measures should be adopted to relieve the economy of country from its dependence on oil before it is too late.

An independent economic system, free from foreign influence or dependence, has been one of the primary objectives of the Islamic Revolution. In spite of the untiring efforts of the world plunderers to prevent Iran from achieving that goal by way of imposing a war, economic blockade or oil price cuts, it is time that with correct planning the economic independence of the country has to be safeguarded. We should gain immunity from the oil price fluctuations by freeing the Iranian economy from its present dependence upon a single product—oil.

OPEC's Secretary-General Subroto recently warned of the dangers of the situation in the world oil market if it Saudis kept on enhancing their oil production at the present rate. He said that very soon oil price will fall down to $5 a barrel.

In view of Subroto's warning, can we afford to start our reconstruction program with a single-commodity income that is unreliable. Can we consider it as a reliable source for rebuilding the country? We should not forget the negative role played by the Saudi regime in making oil revenue of all the oil-producing countries, a source not to be depended upon. We do remember that Saudi Arabia and its collaborators under the pretext of defending their "justified market share" brought down the oil price from $36 a barrel to less than $10 a barrel within the past few years. Thus they prevented the oil-producing countries, most of them belonging to the Third World from earning their just share of their oil revenue.

Now that the Islamic Revolution is entering a new phase of its life, it is hoped that necessary attention will be paid to this fundamental need—freeing Iran's economy from its dependence on oil. Moreover, oil belongs to all generations and OPEC is not a very reliable agency for guaranteeing the oil revenues.

Iranian-Pakistani Border Commission Ends

46000023b Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 22 Oct 88 p 15

[Text] ZAHEDAN, Sistan-Baluchestan Prov., 21 October (IRNA)—Iranian and Pakistani delegations attending the second meeting of the two countries' joint border commission reached certain agreements Thursday.

The agreements include the extradition of criminals, measures against smugglers and effective guarding of the common border to control drug and other illegal cross-border traffic.

It was also decided to hold the third meeting of the joint border commission in next April in Quetta, capital of Pakistan's Baluchestan Province.

Terming results of the commission as positive, a provincial official said the two sides agreed to inspect border posts regularly and to renovate them in time. It was also decided that border officials meet once a month to solve border problems, he added.

The Pakistani delegation called for an annual increase of 100 million Pakistani rupees (over $7m) in the volume of bilateral trade exchanges, and also asked the Islamic Republic to approve the proposal for linking Zahedan to that country's passenger train network.

The Pakistani delegation arrived here on Tuesday.

Five-Month Exports Net $310m

46000023a Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 9 Oct 88 p 6

[Text] RASHT, Gilan Prov., 8 October (IRNA)—More than 400,000 tons of non-oil goods worth $310m were exported to various countries during the first five months of the current Iranian year (begun 21 March).

Head of Iran's Customs Mahmoud Ardekani announcing the figures added that some six million tons of imported goods were unloaded in various customs centers of the country during the same period.

Ardekani further said most of the exports (around 75 percent of the whole) included handwoven carpets, pistachio kernel, various kinds of animal hides, copper ingots, animal intestines and caviar.

Switzerland's Exports to IRI 7 Times Value of Imports

46400015c London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Oct 88 p 4

[Text] In 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988], the Islamic Republic purchased $480 million worth of goods from Switzerland. In the same year, the value of the nonpetroleum exports of Iran to Switzerland did not

exceed $63 million. Hence, in one year, Switzerland exported to Iran more than 7 times the value of the goods it imported from that country.

According to a report published in the SWISS FOREIGN TRADE JOURNAL, the imports of that country from Iran included mostly raw materials and some traditional goods. Among the Swiss imports from Iran last year, various kinds of handwoven woolen carpets, caviar, pistachio nuts, dried goods, cotton, ores and sulphur rank highest. The statistical report of the SWISS FOREIGN TRADE JOURNAL states that in the course of last year, the Islamic Republic purchased medicine, industrial goods, hygiene and chemical items and food items from Swiss merchants.

The Swiss newspaper ZUERCHER ZEITUNG announced early last week that Pierre Lucy Giraudoux, the deputy foreign trade minister of commerce of that country, has traveled to Tehran to open the Swiss pavillion at the Tehran trade exhibition and to engage in economic negotiations, and that he has held talks with the economic officials of the Islamic Republic.

Yugoslav-Iranian Trade Agreement Signed

46000023c Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 22 Oct 88 p 15

[Text] Belgrade, 22 October (IRNA)—Yugoslavia will buy a minimum of one million tons of oil from Iran according to a trade agreement signed in Belgrade Friday.

The agreement was signed at the close of the 7th session of the Yugoslav-Iranian Economic Commission in Belgrade on Friday. The Iranian delegation was led by Economic and Finance Minister Mohammad Javad Iravani.

In talks with Yugoslav Finance Minister Svetozar Rikanovic, both sides expressed satisfaction with the development.

According to the trade agreement, the value of non-oil imports by Yugoslavia will equal one quarter of the country's exports to Iran.

Iran has expressed interest in expanding Iran-Yugoslav cooperation in agro-industries, an Iranian delegate told IRNA.

Iravani, who arrived here last Monday, met with Yugoslav President Raif Dizdarevic, Premier Branko Mikulic, Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar and the Yugoslav foreign trade and transport ministers.

In the course of his visit he toured the republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Slovenia and the Province of Vojvodina.

The Iranian delegation left Belgrade for Tehran later Friday.

Iran, North Korea Sign Fisheries Agreement

46000020d Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 8 Oct 88 p 2

[Text] Tehran, 7 October (IRNA)—The Islamic Republic and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) inked a letter of understanding in Pyongyang Tuesday, according to which the two will cooperate in fishing and fisheries.

An Iranian delegation led by Deputy Construction Jihad Minister and Managing-Director of the Islamic Republic's Fisheries Company Rahman Dadman had left for Pyongyang last Friday.

On Tuesday, the last day of its stay in DPRK, the Iranian delegation called on North Korean Premier Li Gun Mo and discussed with him expansion of mutual ties.

DPRK Mining Official Arrives

Meanwhile, Deputy Chairman of the Mining Industry Commission of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Li Hong Yop arrived here Thursday leading a delegation.

The delegation is here to follow up note of understanding signed late June during DPRK Prime Minister Li Gun Mo's visit to Tehran.

Li Gun Mo and his Iranian counterpart, Hussein Musavi signed a note of understanding on fisheries, technical and mineral cooperation as well as exchange of non-oil goods at the end of the Korean premier's 4-day visit on 24 June.

Singapore Offers Post-War Cooperation

46000020a Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 3 Oct 88 p 6

[Text] Tehran, 2 October (IRNA)—Singaporean accredited ambassador, Harrychan Keng Howe told official-in-charge of Commerce Ministry, Abdolhussein Vahaji here Saturday that Singapore, like other countries, is keen on getting a share in Iran's post-war reconstruction.

Keng Howe said his country can cooperate with Iran in economic projects, especially those relating to ports and shipbuilding.

In response, Vahaji, referring to Iran's economic policies, noted the Islamic Republic gives priority to the Third World and Muslim states concerning trade and commerce. He said Singapore can offer its services needed by Iran.

Cost of Consumer Goods Rising Again

46400015a London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Oct 88 p 4

[Text] The cost of most consumer goods in Iran, after a brief period of stability, has once again begun to rise and in many cases has even gone higher than prices before the cease-fire was announced.

According to reports from the Islamic Republic, along with the trend of rising prices on the market, the rate of most major foreign currencies has also increased.

Late last week, on the foreign currency market in Tehran, the dollar was traded for 85-87 tomans. At the present, there is a shortage of many consumer items and the government has not yet succeeded in providing consumers with some of the items needed by the people, which are mainly distributed with coupons. Experts believe that in the future, once again the foreign currency rate will increase vis-a-vis the rial, and consumer goods will become more expensive more rapidly than before.

Some experts familiar with Iranian economic conditions point out that the shortage of domestic products and the inability of the government to provide the foreign currency needed for imports will result in a continued rise in the price of essential consumer goods.

A recent traveler from Tehran to Europe told KEYHAN that the optimism created among the war-stricken people of Iran concerning the price reductions in consumer and essential goods was very short-lived, and now the people of Tehran and many provincial cities are struggling with problems resulting from the shortage and high prices of most essential goods.

Shortage of Production of Goods and Limitation of Supplies

A trade expert believes that the essential shortage of many items, the limitation of production resources in the country, and particularly the problems concerning the acquisition of foreign currency credit for importing consumer goods have increased the inflation rate and resulted in distributors selling their goods to consumers at any price they wish.

According to a report published in a Tehran newspaper, some elements disrupt all pricing policies. A consumer said: "During the war, many took undue advantage of the situation. Previously, a butcher in a neighborhood who sold meat on the open market at 50 tumans per kg before the war, throwing the fat and the bones to the dogs, with the start of the war, gradually raised the price of this food item to 280 tumans."

KEYHAN, published in Tehran, also stated some time ago in a detailed report on the purchase and sale of goods in Iran: "Price cutting of consumer goods cannot solve all the problems of the pricing system. Perhaps under the new economic system, setting appropriate prices for raw materials and investment goods will have a more positive effect on prices."

Continuing its report, this newspaper referred to the need for change in the system of the production of goods: "The lower production costs, in addition to improving the situation with regard to supply and lowering prices, will prevent inflation, to a degree. At the same time, many of the traditional producers and workers in the handicraft industries purchase the raw materials they need at very high rates on the open market."

KEYHAN, published in Tehran, states in another part of its report: "At the present time, despite the change in the rate of some goods, the cost of raw materials needed by traditional producers has changed. Traditional producers say that that group of raw materials which can be procured domestically must in any case follow the trend toward decreasing prices and must have fair prices in order for the producers not to exert pressure in this regard."

This newspaper, quoting a retailer who deals in special silk used in carpet weaving, states: "Presently, the great problem for weavers of the special Qom-made silk carpets is the high price of silk. In the course of the past year, the price of silk has increased so much that the carpet weavers are no longer able to buy silk. For example, in the course of this period, the price of silk has gone from 1,000 tumans to 4,900 tumans [as published]. And the material for the warp, which was 3,000 tumans, has now increased to 15,000 tumans."

Car Prices Rise Again

According to an economic report just received from Tehran, the reduction in the price of some luxury items, which caused a propaganda uproar in the media of the Islamic Republic after the announcement of the cease-fire, has now completely stopped, and the rate of price increase compared to two months ago is more rapid.

According to this report, many consumer goods are not available. The shortages existing in most areas are even more severe than before. Hoarding and price hiking are abundant and the dealers and sellers take whatever amount of money they wish from buyers, this time without any fear of interference by government agents or of government reprisals. One merchant in Tehran told KEYHAN: "The price of a Peykan car, which fell to 500,000 tumans, has now once again increased to 700,000-750,000 tumans."

The Tehran merchant added: "This increase in prices once again is seen in all imported goods, household items and electrical equipment. Many household items, which in some cases had decreased by half, are again in short supply and are sold at higher prices." This merchant pointed out: "If the resources for the production and supply of such products are not sufficiently provided on the market, we cannot expect the prices to break fundamentally in order for the increasing inflation to stop or slow down. In the Islamic Republic, the basis and

foundation of domestic production has fallen apart, and in order to normalize the situation and operation of the production units, many years of effort and hard work are required."

Billions of Rials Spent Yearly on Subsidy of Basic Goods

46400015b London KEYHAN in Persian 29 Sep 88 p 4

[Text] The Islamic Republic spends 150 billion rials on subsidizing basic goods in Iran. Last week, the trade administration of the Ministry of Plan and Budget announced in a report that the government subsidizes basic goods, such as wheat, sugar cubes and sugar, red and white meat, tea, shortening, rice, eggs, dairy products, livestock and bird feed. Chemical fertilizers, poison and several consumer goods. The above report states that a major portion of the income of families, particularly low-income families, is spent on procuring essential goods that are subsidized by the government.

A report of the trade administration of Plan and Budget Organization analyzes the procurement of essential goods in 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987], giving statistics on the changes, procedures and amounts of imports of essential goods which have been subsidized from 1353 [21 March 1974-20 March 1975] to 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987].

Computer Information Bank Established

46000020b Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 4 Oct 88 p 6

[Text] Tehran, 3 October, (Kayhan Int'l)—A computer information bank was recently established at the Scientific and industrial Research Institute of Iran.

According to a report published in the recent issue of NOAVARAN, the monthly publication of the institute, so far 112 computer programs, including 28 in the field of science, 54 in the field of computer sciences and 30 in the field of management have been fed to the bank.

The report said that the officials-in-charge of the bank were planning to purchase more computer programs from abroad in near future.

The monthly said that in 1985 over $240b had been spent on producing computer programs across the world.

Official on Measures To Combat Illiteracy

46400014c Tehran RESALAT in Persian 10 Sep 88 p 2

[Interview with director of the literacy movement of Semnan Province by IRNA; date and place not given]

[Text] In keeping with the war against ignorance and illiteracy, illiterate soldiers who do not become literate during their service in the barracks will not be given completion of service certificates.

The director of the literacy movement of Semnan Province, in an interview with IRNA on the anniversary of the international day for combating illiteracy, announced the above statement and also said: The service period for soldiers who do not take steps to become literate prior to being conscripted will be increased by 45 days.

He said: In this connection, illiterate persons will not be given business permits, and the business permits of illiterate persons will not be extended.

He continued to explain the activities of this organization in Semnan Province and said: With the efforts of the assistant instructors of this institution, literacy in Semnan Province has increased by 13.46 percent, from 57.23 percent in 1355 [21 March 1976-20 March 1977] to 70.69 percent.

He pointed out: This province, with this number of literate people, ranks in third place in the country, behind the large cities of Tehran and Esfahan.

Referring to the start of the academic year, he said: In keeping with the implementation of the school plan, this year, the plan will be concentrated in areas of the cities with high illiteracy rates. Also, in schools with fewer than 100 students, the principals and vice principals have been granted permission to form a class for the illiterate parents of the students during working hours.

He pointed out: To encourage the teachers and principals cooperating in this project, this year, one outstanding teacher and one principal from every city will be honored.

He said: This year also, the literacy movement of Semnan has been an exception to the rule and has been permitted to cover villages with fewer than 10 illiterate persons.

In this interview, pointing out that this year, 142 new assistant instructors have been hired by the literacy movement of this province, he said: In the first half of this year, with the establishment of 133 classes, 1,476 newly literate persons have been taught by 108 assistant instructors from this institution.

Production of Electricity To Increase During Next Two Years

46400014b Tehran RESALAT in Persian 8 Sep 88 p 11

[Text] **With the reconstruction of the damaged power plants, the expansion and completion of the incomplete energy production projects, in the course of the next two years, the country's electricity production will increase by 2,700 megawatts.**

Concerning the current progress in building the Martyr Raja'i Dam in Sari, the CENTRAL NEWS UNIT

reporter said: With the funds provided by the Melli Bank for the implementation of this project, and the necessary facilities provided, the project has made good progress and is expected to become operational ahead of schedule. Concerning the level of output of this dam after it becomes operational, he said: With the construction of the Martyr Raja'i Dam over the Tajan River, 150 million cubic meters of water will be obtained and more than 50,000 hectares of land in the area will be irrigated.

More Than 3,000 Km of Roads Built in Fars Province

46400014a Tehran RESALAT in Persian 7 Sep 88 p 11

[Text] The Arsanjan-Abadeh-ye Teshak asphalted road, at a cost of 224 million rials, was completed by the central office of roads and transport of Fars Province and became operational yesterday morning.

According to a report by IRNA, the road which connects the villages of Mohammadabad, Tang-e Hana, Khajeh Jamali, Dehmurd, Nasirabad, Sahlabad, 'Aliabad and Hoseynabad, an important agricultural and rural area of the eastern part of Fars, is 57 km long.

According to this report, with the efforts of the employees of the central office of roads and transport of Fars, so far, 1,200 km of rural roads and more than 2,000 km of the roads of the province have been asphalted since 1357 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979].

Handicapped Workers To Be Given Ownership of Factories

46400003a Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 20 Jul 88 p 4

[Text] Semnan—Parallel to the policies of the Welfare Organization, and in order to make handicapped persons self-sufficient, factories for the handicapped, administered by this organization, will be made into producing cooperatives and will be turned over to their handicapped workers.

The director of the Welfare Organization of Semnan Province who announced the news to the reporter of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, said: Based on the Interior Ministry's directive regarding this matter, all development and production service centers of provincial governments must study and survey plansfor the formation of production cooperatives for the handicapped as presented to them by the Welfare Organization, and to bring them to the attention of the General Department of Industries after having confirmed the plans, in order to obtain the department's agreement on principle.

He said: It is not the policy of the Welfare Organization in this regard to bring the handicapped under its coverage permanently, but rather, to provide training programs and to create jobs for them.

He added: This shall not include the mentally handicapped who require round-the-clock care and supervision.

He pointed out: These factories, after being transferred, shall become cooperatives covered by provincial centers for production and developmental services, and will be supervised by the Welfare Organization.

Regarding the significance and the results of implementing this program, he said: After completing this important task, the problem of insurance for the employees of these factories and other services involving them will be solved, and the handicapped shall begin to enjoy these privileges.

In conclusion, the director of Semnan's Welfare Organization said: Along these same lines, the two cabinet kit producing factories of Damghan Martyrs of 7 Tir and the saddlery and tentmaking factory of Garmsar 17 Shahrivar, have already been made into cooperatives and have been transferred to the employees. The clothing factory of Shahrud also is in the process of being transferred to the workers.

Homeless People To Receive Land

46400014d Tehran RESALAT in Persian 11 Sep 88 p 11

[Interview with Engineer Isari, deputy minister of housing and urban development and director general of the urban land agency, by IRNA in Gilan; date not given]

[Text] **In order to assist oppressed homeless people in procuring housing, this year, 50,000 plots of land will be distributed to applicants throughout the country on the basis of the new urban land law.**

Based on this law, next year 100,000 plots of land will be given to the people.

Engineer Isari, the deputy minister of housing and urban development and director general of the urban land agency of our country, who had traveled yesterday morning to Gilan, made this statement in an interview with IRNA.

In connection with the new programs of the urban land agency, he said: Based on the new urban land law, the bylaws of which have been devised and approved by the Cabinet, from now on, all distribution, including that of land or housing built on government land needed by applicants, will be announced in every city.

He added: Parallel to this method, in order to provide housing for the people in cities in which it is not possible to take possession of barren and government lands, a

program for the creation and development of new townships on the boundaries of the cities has also been devised. He pointed out that for this purpose, at the present, 10 new cities in various areas of the country are being created.

He added: Along with the creation of these new townships, by the end of next year, 400,000 housing units will be provided for the people.

He pointed out: This year, in order to expedite land distribution among the applicants, 11 billion rials in funds have been allocated for preparing the lands for distribution.

In the conclusion of this interview, he emphasized the necessity for the people's participation in constructing housing and said: This help can be very effective in fighting land pollution [as published].

New Housing Units Planned

46000020c Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 5 Oct 88 p 6

[Text] Tehran, 4 October (IRNA)—Some 4.5 million more people will own houses within the next 5 years, Minister of Housing and Urban Development Serajeddin Kazerouni said here Monday.

Kazerouni said the setting up of 11 new townships and completion of 272 urban development plans throughout the country to accommodate 4.5m people in the next 5 years would solve the problem of housing.

He made the remarks at the conference on housing technology at the Museum of Contemporary Arts here, which was attended by President Ali Khamene'i.

New townships would be build near Tehran, Isfahan, Arak, Mashhad, Shiraz, Tabriz, Kerman, Bandar Abbas, Ahvaz, Bakhtaran and Bushehr said Kazerouni.

The conference later heard President Khamene'i, who referring to the relationship between housing and family, said man does not need mere shelter but a "home" that can meet his intellectual and sentimental needs as well as his longing for comfort and privacy.

The president criticized the trend of constructing huge 'lifeless' apartments in Iran as a "rootless plan" unable to cater to the rich cultural aspects of Iranian Muslims.

Khamene'i also called on the housing and urban development minister and other officials to pay more attention to the time-factor and to complete all housing projects on time.

Later, President Khamene'i inspected various architectural designs and photographs and models of new townships and other urban development plans under way.

Development of Sistan Va Baluchestan Airports, a Priority

46400003b Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 24 Jul 88 p 4

[Text] Zahedan—The passenger airport of Bandar-Kenarak, a township of the city of Bandar-Chabahar, will become operational during Government Week.

According to a report by the Islamic Republic News Agency, this was announced by the head of the Civil Aviation Organization in a joint press, radio and television interview held in Zahedan.

Describing the importance of expanding the airports of Sistan va Baluchestan Province, as well as including the Zahedan airport in the plans of Civil Aviation Organization, he said: Based on agreements reached with the governor's office of Sistan va Baluchestan for providing manpower for Zahedan airport, the function of the airport will become round the clock.

He added: Also Zahedan airport's expansion construction will be completed during the current year.

In connection with the establishment of the Saravan passenger airport the head of the Civil Aviation Organization said: The blueprints for Saravan's airport are in the process of being completed, and consulting engineers are busy putting the final touches on the plan. The construction of the airport will begin this year upon the allocation and payment of 200 million rials in credits to the Civil Aviation Organization by the governor's office of Sistan va Baluchestan.

Regarding the Zabol airport, he said: In order to develop and expand the construction of its air terminal and to extend its air strip, a budget of 800 million rials has been envisaged, of which 500 million rials have already been secured in credits. As soon as a reputable contractor is found, the construction will begin.

He added: Presently only the Aseman Aviation Company takes off from this airport, but with the expansion of its air strip the 727 aircraft, and probably the airbus will utilize it also.

Due To Pollution, Production Units To Relocate

46400003c Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 24 Jul 88 p 4

[Text] Karaj—Because of polluting the environment, 18 production units will be shut down and relocated outside residential areas according to a scheduled plan.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, the Department of Environmental Protection indicated that based on decisions made at Karaj Ecological Headquarters, all unauthorized workshops of the phase 4 region of

Karaj's 'Mehrshahr,' are to be shut down by about 23 September of this year, and will be relocated to suitable locations away from residential areas.

According to the same report, the closure and relocation of these units will be carried out within three stages based on the type of operations and the degree of their polluting. Accordingly, during the first phase of the plan, 7 rubber parts manufacturing plants and one insulation material producing factory were closed down yesterday morning.

PAKISTAN

Writer Accuses Western Press of Bigotry

46000022c Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 29 Sep 88 p 31

[Article by Ghayurul Islam]

[Text] The Western Press, especially the American sector, claims to have the monopoly of purveying the truth. Anything unpalatable to Western governments or their capitalist system, occasionally coming to light, is attributed to misinformation or disinformation and, therefore, must have been spread by the Communists, the USSR in particular.

This attitude of self-righteousness and outright rejection of inconvenient facts is extremely dangerous for the international community, especially so when practiced by the Fourth Estate of a super-Power on whose policies, attitudes and postures the peace, nay, the very existence of the world depends.

Glaring Example

A glaring example of this attitude is provided by a news item which originated in Honduras where a newspaper, LA TRIBUNAL, in January 1987, quoted a senior government official, Leonardo Villeda Bermudez, as saying that there was organised trafficking in organs of small children sold by the poverty-stricken parents for the rich Americans. Although the story was immediately denied, obviously under U.S. pressure, the news persisted. Being of great human interest, it was picked up by international news agencies, Reuter's and AFP, and was widely published in Western Europe.

The American media, with all its immense human and financial resources and expertise of investigative reporting, did not find the story worthy of attention. However, the damning effect of the story required launching of a damage control operation. And there could be no better and more effective way of damage control than to discover and establish a link of the story with the USSR or other Communist sources.

The worldwide network of CIA and U.S. Information Agency launched a search campaign and gleefully found that four months after the publication of the original story (April 5, 1987), PRAVDA wrote the following comments: "It was not a life of paradise and the home hearth of well-to-do Americans that awaited the Honduran boys and girls. Swindlers supplied them as donors for sick and disabled children from rich families. They are broken down, or rather sold off, literally in parts...eyes, kidneys, hearts, everything that can be used for transplantation." This was supposed to be enough to throw the story into the dustbin.

The story was again widely denied and the UN Secretary General called it fictitious rumours. Despite denials and contradictions rumours persisted and on August 7, British news agency Reuter reported from Asuncion, Paraguay, quoting a provincial judge there claiming that kidnapped babies "were going to be killed at American organ banks." Two days later, on American intervention, Reuter called the charges unsubstantiated.

Children for Sale

One would ardently wish that the story is not correct. But the point is that the great American Press, rather wasting efforts and money on establishing Soviet connection with the story and thus invoking prejudice and distorting judgment, should have investigated the allegations. From our own experience, we know that in poverty-stricken societies people are so brutalised that they do not hesitate to cripple children to earn a comfortable living from their misery. And this is done in full view of the authority.

Another example of distorting truth and people's judgement by invoking prejudices and bias, came to light when PRAVDA commented on a recently declassified Pentagon's contingency plan and accused the United States of starting the Cold War between the two superpowers and accelerating the arms race.

The contingency plan, codenamed 'Operation Pincher,' completely ignored by Western and American media on declassification, was drawn up in 1945 outlining measures to thwart Soviet attempt to develop nuclear weapons. The plan had targeted Moscow and 19 other major Soviet cities for nuclear attacks if USSR went ahead with nuclear weapon development. The attack, if carried out, would have caused as many as 13 million deaths. PRAVDA's comment on the plan was called Soviet propaganda. PRAVDA called the plan 'evil.' Evil certainly it was, if it existed; and it certainly existed that is why it has been declassified now. It has been admitted by U.S. diplomats that the extracts have not been misquoted or distorted. The U.S. Press, instead of criticising the evil plan, criticised PRAVDA for the publication of the declassified documents commenting upon it and thus harming the U.S.-Soviet relations.

If there existed and still exist such crooked minds who planned and still harbour designs in terms of millions of deaths—and they may be on either side of the battle lines—they need to be condemned not condoned. The

PRAVDA article admitted that "the Soviet Union did not fully use all possibilities to limit the scale and activity of confrontation to prevent appearance of an iron curtain which cost us dearly."

Bigotry

There are still a lot of bigoted people in USA, and may be in USSR, who would like to dominate the world even if it may cost the destruction of human civilisation but it is the duty of the sane people to neutralise these lunatics. This can be done by those who swear by the freedom of information. They should give up the stance of self-righteousness and dubbing every unpalatable fact as Communist propaganda.

In the summer of 1954, the United States engineering a coup in Guatemala that overthrew the elected leftist government of Jacobo Arbenz Guzman. At that time Dukakis was in Lima, Peru, studying Spanish. He recalls: "In the United States, virtually nobody knew what was going on and in Peru everybody knew what was going on. We tried to overthrow the government and we did so right out of the Embassy in Guatemala. We planted phony Soviet weapons which were then discovered in a CIA operation. All this came in the context of the most hysterical McCarthyism, the Cold War, Stalin, the Iron Curtain." (N.Y. Times of 2.9.88).

Mr Dukakis' closest friend and campaign chairman, Paul Brountas said, "Since that time (1954) the nature and extent of the covert operations of CIA have been of concern to Michael. He recognises the need for covert operations but believes they have been abused."

Writer Asserts 'Blaming Enemies Is Defeatism'

46000022a Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Oct 88 pp 4, 7

[Article by Syed Akbar]

[Text] An eleven member Sind Cabinet was sworn in on Friday, September 29. As if to demonstrate its utter irrelevance, masked gunmen on cars struck at an unsuspecting crowd of men, women and children in a busy part of Hyderabad which resulted in the massacre of hundreds of them. It has been alleged that the police was not to be found when the action mounted in a commando style, took place. As the attackers were driving away after completing their job, the police, which materialised from nowhere, is reported to have chased them and succeeded in capturing a car with two occupants. It is not clear if someone quite innocent of the crime and speeding away from the scene of action may not have been caught in the classic police fashion of producing result. This carnage was the beginning of an ethnic free for all in the city as a result of which many more fell to death. Army, had to be called out and an indefinite curfew imposed to control the killings which has abated without being checked. Karachi erupted into its own version of a bloodbath and destruction, as if in malignant sympathy with Hyderabad, when masked gunmen made free with the city and shot to death over sixty unwary and unsuspecting people. Army has been called out here too and a large part of the city has been put under curfew. Sporadic incidents of firing from moving vehicles, and pitched gunfights with the police have taken place without any signs of the city returning to its normal days of rich fatalities through traffic accidents and run-of-the-mill crime. Panic is stalking the city, and the rumour making its round is that the next target of the gunmen will be the posh areas of Karachi. After all the well to do and rich must also pay their share of casualties. Business has come to a standstill.

When life has become a hunt, and human beings are being shot and killed for some sinister sport, no one is worried about the incalculable loss and irreparable damage to the city's economy. Karachi is being widowed and orphaned every time a bullet strikes its target. Its future commercial and industrial viability is seriously threatened with disastrous effects to follow for the nation.

About the same time that Hyderabad and Karachi were prostrated by carnage, the COAS was also visiting the two cities. He is reported to have told officers in Hyderabad that the tragic incident was linked with the sectarian clash in Gilgit, the assassination of Arif Hussain Hussaini, the death of Ziaul Haq and his Generals in a plane crash, forming a chain of events aimed by our external enemies to destabilise the country and thwart its progress to democracy. He assured the officers, and through the occasion the people of Pakistan, that the armed forces were committed to the holding of free and fair elections on November 16.

Undeterred by the slight inflicted by the Hyderabad gunmen on the Sind government, the Chief Minister hastened to the city on the second day of the killings. He went through the motion of promising a judicial enquiry by a High Court Judge, and offering blood money to the dead and injured. It is thus that he absolved himself and his administration of all accountability, oblivious of the contemptible farce he was enacting. Pakistan Television has made matters worse by showing in its daily news bulletins long shots of the Sind Cabinet in session over the grave situation, and close-ups of the Chief Minister haranguing his colleagues, as if photo opportunities were the best moments of a discredited government at its very inception. Mercifully we have been spared the Chief Minister's speeches in cabinet sessions or the contributions of the ministers. God be praised for small mercies!

President Ishaq Khan has also paid visits to the two cities, mildly chastised the Sind government and sat in high level meetings on the situation. Everyone seems to be seized with the situation, fully aware of the consequences which will follow. But all are helpless. As a thesis, the appreciation of the situation by the COAS is very respectable in that this is what the establishment

has approved for public consumption. The late President, the dismissed Prime Minister, the discredited Federal Minister of Interior and others in the Federal and Sind cabinets have enunciated it from time to time when pushed in helplessness against the wall. What is surprising, even scandalous, is that despite our conviction that we are under subversive attack from across the frontiers, we have neither taken our case to the United Nations nor have we succeeded in apprehending and producing even one convincing agent of our enemies engaged in engineering domestic unrest and chaos.

This failure has been raising unhappy questions if our governments understand what is happening, and possess the capability of coming to grips with the situation. Many of us have been reduced to believe, contrary to our resistance against it, that the tragic incidents which have been hitting the two cities of Sind have got the better of our federal and provincial governments and the situation as it has been unfolding is beyond their administrative control. The conclusion thrust upon us is that the much publicised theory of foreign intervention, if true, still needs proof, and that the establishment trots it out every time there is death and destruction on spectacular scales in any part of the country to cover up its own inefficiencies. The theory sits precariously on the head of negligence and dereliction of duty on the party of the governments and their machinery, as if meant to distract people's attention from the river of blood and bridge of death and mangled bodies that lie in their very eyes.

Enough has been said about the activities of the foreign agents, and this may very well be true. But it is about time that the intelligence resources of the country were put to work to produce hard data as proof. It is then that people will be convinced, and realising that the administration can catch the culprits and will believe that it has finally got a handle on the situation. After every incident far too many innocent people are netted by the police while the perpetrators of the crime get away to prepare for another day of death and destruction. This situation has been repeating itself like the dance of death for years now with the result that people's credibility has snapped. The time has come for honest soul searching and equally brave confessions of mistakes and failures. Time has come for the federal and provincial governments to take people into confidence.

The time has come for us to blame ourselves rather than others for our troubles, because we have allowed the enemy to enter our house either through stealth or battery. The time has come for a national political effort to face up to the issues which help our enemies, whenever they can be to exploit our weaknesses and strike us where we are the most fragile and vulnerable. The time has come to stand up and face facts. Those who are suffering do not want explanations; they want results. So, to substantiate the thesis of foreign intervention in our, internal affairs, let us not reiterate our assumptions but search earnestly and hard for proof.

Otherwise the disastrous impression will gather strength that this charge is an excuse from application which is that nose to the ground we look for and capture those who are acting for our enemies. This should have been the governments first administrative priority and requires to be followed up with a will before the chain of events counted by the COAS do not become a nose [noose] tightening round the country's neck. I am sure we know that it is a divided house which falls to the enemy. What we have to do is to keep the family together in equity and justice like the heavenly constellations. Blaming our enemies for our troubles is defeatism, and what we need is to face up to our tribulations with critical honesty and work for our salvation.

Writer Questions Police Commitment, Honesty

46000022b Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Oct 88 p 4

[Article by Sultan Ahmed]

[Text] After reviewing the lawlessness and disorder in Karachi, acting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has pronounced the police in the city as inadequate to its needs and he is right.

Undoubtedly the strength of the police has been expanding steadily and the number of police stations, which is now 59, has been increasing as the city expands and its population, now estimated at over seven million, spreads out in all directions, save the sea. And yet each police station has to look after nearly 1.5 lakh persons—many of them new comers to their area not only from within the country but also from the east, west and north of the country.

Ethnic Killings

Although the number of policemen was increased by 2,000 a couple of years ago, the total is not adequate even to cope with the increasing crimes and small disturbances. But, for some years now they have been called upon to face successive waves of ethnic and other riots or outright killings on a large scale.

The ethnic killings, too, are of a variable kind. If earlier they were between the Pashtoons and Mohajirs, now it is between the Mohajirs and Sindhis.

And with the elections coming, tension within Mohajir groups, too, has been increasing, particularly between the Mohajir Qaumai Movement and Jamiatul Ulema-i-Pakistan of Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani. A JUP leader Sanaullah was killed and six were injured when the MQM opened fire at a public meeting of the JUP at Malir a fortnight ago. Maulana Noorani and other JUP leaders had to take cover under the dias to shield themselves from the massive firing.

And the shooting spree between the students, too, varies from time to time. Earlier it was between the over-armed Jamiat-i-Tuleba and others in the Karachi University, and later between Jeay Sind students and the Pakhtoon students, and at times with the Punjabi students. And lately the fearsome shooting match has been between the Jamait-i-Tuleba and the All Pakistan Mohajir Students Association both the Karachi University and the NED Engineering University, which are closed now along with the two medical colleges which have seen a great deal of bloodshed.

In addition, the foreigners in the city, who number half a million, present another kind of challenge to the authorities. The Arab students may try to settle their political differences by the use of arms or bombs. The Iranian groups may secretly try to eliminate each other. And all of them may try to attack the consulates, ranging from that of the U.S. to little Austria. So the police has to be on guard all the time. This is all the more imperative when the number of illegal entrants into the city from India, Bangladesh and Burma on one side and from Afghanistan, Iran and the Arab countries on the other keeps on increasing steadily.

To cope with such diverse challenges various special police units were created. The Eagle Squad came up with its suzukis and powerful weapons and took position very conspicuously at key points of the city, particularly at major street crossings. Then came the Hawk Squad on very powerful motor cycles moving in fast in areas where policemen in cars could not move in quickly but soon they produced quite many scandals. They became high-handed and began looting some of the individuals. And some of the Eagle Squad policemen were involved in crimes personally and were caught red handed. All that discredited both the forces.

Simultaneously, efforts were made to train a special riot police to cope with ethnic riots or massive student challenges. But that does not appear to have made much headway. And when it comes to acts of violence by students, the cops tend to ignore them, even if such attacks be against their teachers.

Such new police units were more or less like the new police forces created in the interior of Sind. Special river police and forest police were set up to battle the dacoits on all the fronts, but they have not achieved any success more than the conventional policemen.

When Lt Gen Rahimuddin Khan was Governor of Sind, a move was afoot to create separate police forces for the city and the rural areas, but this was resisted by the old Sindhis who argued that was an attempt to create a police of Mohajirs and outsiders in the cities and old Sindhis in the rural areas. They feared that could be the thin end of a wedge to divide the province. That move appears to have been given up, at least for the time being.

New Police Units

And now a new police unit has been set up in the city with the name of "smash" which is trying to uncover the illegal arms and seize them. This is too tough a task as the people have far more faith in their guns to protect themselves, if they can, than in the distrusted cops.

Various kinds of attempts have been made to make the city police more efficient and less corrupt. But most of the time, the casualty has been the Inspector General of police whose turnover has been very heavy.

The IGPs on their part kept on shuffling and reshuffling their police officers vainly. They held the SHOs of each area responsible for crimes in their station areas, but all that did no good. So Mohammad Abbas Khan who became I. G. Sind recently has removed all the SHOs from the 59 stations of the city and promoted the assistant sub-inspectors as SHOs and directed them to put down crimes in their area resolutely.

Even otherwise the time had come for the police to act firmly and honestly. In recent years, dacoits or other criminals have killed an increasing number of police officers, including SHOs. They were ultimately facing the demons they had raised or colluded with. But they could have done a better job if they were not corrupt and suspected to be involved in some of the crimes themselves. So whether the new experiment proves any more of a success than earlier lesser ones remains to be seen. The new SHOs have been told if they do not fulfill the expectations they would be depromoted. In the latest round of rioting in the city, in which over 70 persons have been killed, some of the fire has been pointedly directed at the police and on Tuesday night an ASI was shot dead at Orangi.

The number of police stations is now to be raised from 59 to 76, and in the second phase more stations are to be set up. In addition, 80 more mobile police units with fast cars and modern weapons are to be created.

The real issue is not only the number of the policemen or variations in their organisations but also their quality and commitment. Can the police solve the problems created by 11 years of authoritarian rule which corrupted the police far more? Where the politicians have failed dismally, can the police succeed, particularly when they are corrupt and inefficient and fear the superior fire power of the rioters?

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